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Man kept boy in hostel after seeing abduction film

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

A LONELY man kidnapped a boy aged four and held him prisoner for eight weeks in his hostel room after watching a television film about a child abductor, a court was told yesterday.

Peter May, aged 26, "a solitary and childish man" with a deep interest in children, kept Simon Jones captive undetected despite a huge police hunt during which officers interviewed him three times and once searched his room.

St Albans crown court was told that for 56 days the boy, who vanished while playing with his brothers, was held less than a mile from his family home in a 12ft by 12ft room rented by his unemployed kidnapper.

His ordeal ended when staff at the hostel in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, became suspicious, found Simon on the bed reading a comic, and called police.

May denied abducting Simon on September 23 last year. Earlier he pleaded guilty to falsely imprisoning him.

Michael Kalisher QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that when Simon vanished after playing outside the flat

he shared with his two brothers and divorced mother, 100 police officers and 1,000 members of the public searched for him.

Two days later police went to the hostel where May lived and his room was searched by a woman officer. May calmly sat and watched and, said Mr Kalisher, it was still not known where he had concealed the boy. On two more occasions police spoke to May.

Mr Kalisher told the jury that during the search for Simon, May frequently referred to it and compared it to a film he had seen shortly before entitled *My name is Steven*, about a child abductor who kept a small boy for years and convinced him he was the father.

Staff and residents eventually noticed that May began to keep his room permanently locked and in the dining room would divide his meal on to two plates, which he took back to the room.

Once a child's voice was heard coming from the room but May had told staff and residents that he had a wife and child who visited him.

Mr Kalisher said that May asked a fellow resident to buy a child's tracksuit for him from a local store and it was noticed that he was buying regular amounts of sweets. In early November he was seen washing children's clothing in the hostel but said it belonged to his son who had visited him earlier.

On Sunday, November 18, staff heard a scraping sound inside May's room. He was out of the hostel and staff used a pass key to enter the room. Simon was lying on a bed, reading a comic.

"He was asked if he was all right and he said he was. They looked at the door and left," said Mr Kalisher. Staff told police and two officers were sent to the hostel.

"Simon was still on the bed, and he smiled, and when he was asked his name he said, 'Simon Jones'." A relieved woman police constable said "Give me a hug," which he did.

Simon had not been interfered with and was in good health. Mr Kalisher alleged that when May was questioned at the home minutes later, he said: "I was going to take him back to his mum, but had no transport."

After his arrest May said to have told detectives that the boy had willingly followed him to the hostel, claiming that he was lost. May said he awoke at 3 am next day, panicked and, amid the search, was never able to return Simon home.

Mr Kalisher told the jury: "The crown say that that is absurd. He willingly took that child to his room. He kept him for eight weeks and did not return him. He must have taken considerable care to prevent that child being seen."

He said May had been able to get Simon into his room by using a fire door, which he had made sure was unlocked.

The case continues today.



Simon Jones: reading a comic when found

Legal fight over Aids payments is ended

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE bitter legal wrangle over compensation for 1,200 haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus from contaminated blood products ended yesterday when the High Court approved payments totalling £42 million.

Most of the victims have already received the payments of between £21,500 and £60,500 offered by the health department in an out-of-court settlement. In May William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said the government had reached agreement with the haemophiliacs on how the £42 million payments announced last December should be distributed.

Yesterday's High Court approval of that sum means that apart from a handful of cases in which clinical mismanagement is alleged, the litigation is over.

Mr Justice Ognall, who last year urged the government to agree to an out-of-court payment, said he greeted the settlement with great professional and personal satisfaction.

He was speaking at the end of a two-hour hearing in which lawyers involved in the litigation explained why and how a settlement had been reached. □ Thousands of unnecessary operations are performed on children every year, the Consumers Association magazine *Which?* says in a report today. One in ten children were operated on for glue ear, a condition in which a sticky fluid fills the middle ear cavity, the report says.

Only a minority of children who were almost deaf from the condition definitely benefited from surgery, the report says. About 91,000 operations to correct the disorder were carried out each year, but a simple change in the guidelines could reduce those by over a third.

Researchers had estimated that if children had to have a hearing loss of at least 25 decibels before surgery was offered, the number of glue ear operations in England and Wales would drop to 57,000 a year. "For most of these children, the operation would have been unnecessary."

Sarah Pickthall, campaign co-ordinator of the National Deaf Children's Society, called the report very dangerous. Without surgery being performed, children would be left deaf, she said.



Tea totally: Esther Rantzen raises a cup to Ennema Woolpack regulars, actors Richard Thorpe and Ronald Magill, at yesterday's launch

Drunks will be left high and dry in 'family pubs'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE typical pub of the future will have soft drinks on tap, signs showing the alcohol content of drinks, and bar staff who will refuse to serve drunken customers, the Health Education Authority said yesterday.

The ideal pub will serve hot food, tea and coffee, and have areas for non-smokers and families with children, an authority survey has shown.

The findings are published today to coincide with "Drinkwise Day", part of a campaign by the authority to promote sensible drinking. Since a similar event last year the average British adult has consumed 250 pints of beer or lager, 20 bottles of wine, 12 pints of cider and five litres of spirits, the authority said.

Health department records show a 7 per cent rise in deaths from liver disease in 1989 compared with 1988. The authority's strategy

is to encourage moderate drinking rather than to emphasise the dangers of abuse. It supports Royal College of Physicians recommendations that a "sensible" weekly limit is 21 units for men and 14 for women. A unit equals a glass of wine, a half pint of ordinary strength beer or lager, or a small measure of spirits.

In the survey of 664 pub-goers, 36 per cent said they wanted information displayed on alcohol content.

Ninety-one per cent said a publican should not serve alcohol to people who have had too much to drink, and 93 per cent said that low-alcohol and alcohol-free drinks should be cheaper than alcoholic drinks.

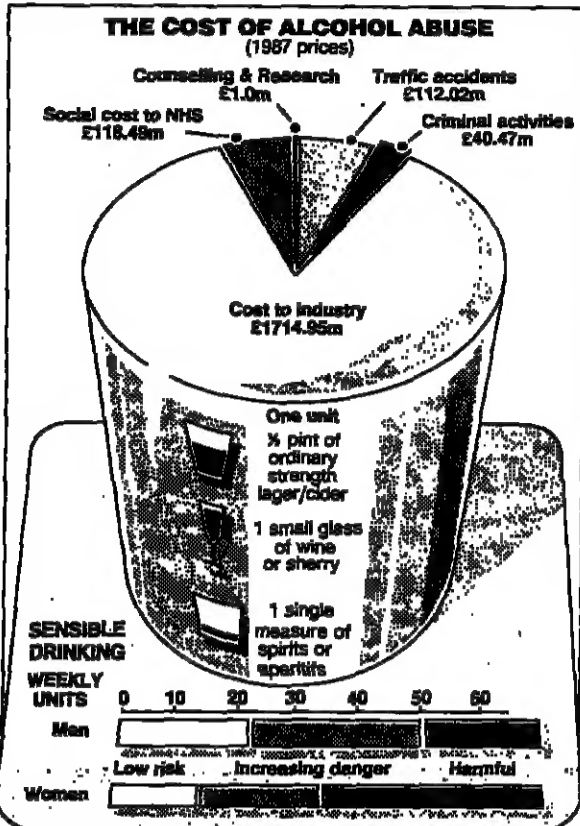
Esther Rantzen, a member of the authority's board who helped launch the campaign, said that the pub of tomorrow would be more of a family place.

Letters, page 19

Real ale brewers close

REAL ale enthusiasts in the Lake District were yesterday mourning the closure of Harleys brewery at Ulverston, Cumbria. In only four years it was due to celebrate its bicentenary (Michael Hornsall writes).

The brewery, famous locally for its beers from the wood, was taken over by Robinson's in 1982. The closure will create ten redundancies. Robinson's said, however, that it would brew beers at its Unicorn brewery in Stockport, Cheshire. The closure leaves Britain with 60 independent breweries.



TV attacked over 'free drink adverts'

By THOMSON PRENTICE

THE portrayal of alcohol in popular television programmes is worth almost £500 million a year of free advertising to the drinks industry, according to a survey.

The worst offender is *EastEnders* with a drinking scene on average every ten minutes and as many as 27 visual or verbal references to alcohol in every hour of its screen time.

The survey, by alcohol abuse prevention specialists at the North Western regional health authority, Manchester, appears in the *British Journal of Addiction*.

The researchers say that the BBC and independent TV companies were asked four years ago by a ministerial group on alcohol abuse to review the portrayal

of alcohol on TV. "Television still fosters an environment in which alcohol consumption features prominently."

"Further action and review is therefore recommended to ensure that television companies stop exaggerating the amount of drinking in British society," Laura Pendleton and colleagues say in the journal.

The researchers recorded 50 programmes, of which 19 were soap operas, comedies or dramas, and 31 were news, documentaries, arts magazines and light entertainment programmes. The programmes were taken from the national top 100 chart of audience ratings between August and December 1988. Alcohol was referred to in 72 per cent.

Palumbo issues challenge to cities as arts spending falls

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

INSPIRED by Glasgow's year as Europe's city of culture in 1990, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, has challenged other British cities to show how much they value the arts with his Arts 2000 project, nominating a cultural city a year.

"When backed with confidence, vigour and energy," he said yesterday, "the arts have the power to enhance our lives and revitalise our environment."

Local government is the biggest spender on the arts. Compared with the Arts Council's £196 million, local authorities will spend an estimated £200 million this year. Local confidence, vigour and energy have been sapped with poll tax capping or the fear of it. Arts funding has been at the discretion of local councils rather than a statutory duty (such as spending on education), giving opportunities for spectacular cultural munificence such as Birmingham's hosting of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, supporting the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle and building a concert hall. Birmingham is to be Lord Palumbo's city of 1992.

There will be no such accolade for Tower Hamlets

in east London, where the council has declared art an unaffordable luxury, or Derbyshire county council, which has cancelled its entire arts budget, or Wandsworth in south London, which has almost done the same, or Basildon in Essex, whose Towngate theatre faces closure because its grant has been frozen, or London.

After the collapse of the London boroughs grants scheme, created to replace the Greater London Council's funding of the arts and voluntary organisations, eight arts companies face closure. Today five companies, including the Almeida and Green-

wich theatres, are having their appeals against grant cuts heard.

Yesterday Tim Renton, the arts minister, told the Commons that London's arts funding was under review. Prompted by him, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has called for submissions on the arts for his local government review, the deadline for which is Friday.

The new London Arts Lobby will suggest that a special body be formed to co-ordinate London boroughs' arts subsidy.

The Arts Council is expected to recommend that local cultural funding should be made statutory. Alarmed by reports of grinding brakes on local arts subsidies in April the council carried out a nationwide check. It found that, excepting isolated examples of enlightened support, local arts subsidy was vulnerable. The growth of the last decade has stopped.



Lord Palumbo: praise for Birmingham munificence

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Boys collide

Fishy tale

Kuwait flight

MPs' report shows police sick pay cost £120m in 1990

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office is preparing national guidance on measuring and improving police sickness levels after a Commons select committee report yesterday showed that ill health cost 1.1 million working days and more than £120 million in sick pay last year.

One reform may involve the creation of sickness monitoring units to analyse sickness reports and to improve management. The Home Office is impressed by a West Midlands unit which despite problems of morale and high urban crime last year reported the lowest number of days lost to sickness per officer of any force.

Improved management, occupational health units and better records are key recommendations from the Home Affairs select committee's report, which found that officers last year took 11.6 days of sick leave on average compared with a national average of seven or eight days for industrial workers. More than 5 per cent of all provincial police working days were lost last year to sickness; the national average for other occupations was between 4 and 5 per cent.

The report showed how rigid shift systems can help to cause health problems, and said that compulsory health checks should be instituted for officers over 40. There should be standardisation of treatment on long periods of sick leave and the wider use of some simple remedies; 11,000 cases of whiplash in the Metropolitan police could have been averted by use of car head rests.

The MPs said they began

their research not only because of concern at costs and lost work; they were anxious to see that the police used good management to measure sickness, its causes and ways to reduce it, and to see that senior officers dealt sympathetically with illness. The report added: "Our choice of this subject should not be regarded as masking a tacit belief the police service is any more susceptible to malingering than any other occupation."

It was clear, however, that there was some abuse of the system. A Merseyside study showed a markedly lower level of sick leave on public holidays when officers were paid double. The report said: "The empirical evidence from Merseyside suggests that some officers, just like some other employees, use the excuse of short-term sickness as means of avoiding work."

Figures for forces show that Cleveland last year had most days lost, with 19.5 per officer; West Midlands was lowest with 7.1.

Looking at assaults on officers, the report found that Gwent had the highest number in 1989 at over 0.3 per man, but Northumbria had most days off through assaults at nearly eight days a man.

Gwent's topping the table suggested that officers there were encouraged to report assaults unrecorded elsewhere. The statistics emphasised the need for standardisation; there had been a "shambolic inconsistency" in how forces collected sick leave figures.

The committee called for guidance as soon as possible,

and yesterday the Home Office said it would come next year, after completion of the current round of reports by inspectors of constabulary.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said that the report highlighted good work already being done around the country. Its own occupational health and welfare sub-committee had found no substantial evidence of abuse.

The Police Federation said that comparison of sickness between the police and in industry was unrealistic: "Shop stewards don't get hit on the head very often, but officers on the beat know they face a one in four chance of being assaulted every time they go out. This is bound to have an effect on sickness levels."

Alan Eastwood, the federation chairman, said the report represented a major step forward in looking after police well-being.

Home Affairs Select Committee, Police Sickness (Stationery Office, £12.85)



Guard cat: a 5ft plywood cat planted at a market farm at Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire, to frighten pigeons

Farmer wins cash over no-trees order

THE Nature Conservancy Council has been ordered by the Lands Tribunal for Scotland to pay a landowner more than £500,000 compensation after it imposed restrictions on how he could farm part of his estate in Perthshire (Kerry Gill writes). John Cameron

sought £872,700 after the council stopped his plans to plant trees, increase his livestock and start deer shooting in areas covered by two sites of special scientific interest on the 20,000-acre Glenlochay estate. The Forestry Commission denied him grant aid

for planting on the council's advice.

The council offered him £210,000 in compensation if he would agree not to graze the areas, use fertilisers or introduce hunting. Mr Cameron refused the offer and became the first farmer to opt for

arbitration by the tribunal.

The prime minister will be invited today to examine a photographic dossier compiled by the Council for the Protection of Rural England showing examples of how hedgerows have been destroyed.

British ban Soviet research vessel

By KERRY GILL

A SOVIET research ship invited by Labour-controlled "nuclear free" councils to monitor radioactive waste levels around the Scottish coast was banned by the foreign office from entering British waters yesterday.

The foreign office is believed to have feared that the presence of the 860-tonne Akademik Boris Petrov could have jeopardised Britain's defence interests. Part of its mission would have taken it into the Firth of Forth, close to the Rosyth naval base.

The Soviet government, which asked permission for the ship's visit on behalf of its academy of sciences in Moscow, was told that "elements of the research programme were unacceptable". It has been claimed that the vessel can detect nuclear warheads.

The academy said the visit was purely for environmental studies. Iain Macdonald, of the Nuclear Free Zones Scotland organisation, said: "The government is more interested in perpetuating the myth of the cold war than protecting the environment or the health of the British people."

'Con man' rapist gets longer sentence

A "DEDICATED" con man whose designs on an elderly widow changed from money to sex had his five-year sentence for rape increased to seven by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Three judges headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, agreed with the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew QC, that the sentence on Eric Stephen Hughes, aged 46, at Nottingham crown court was "inordinately low".

Lord Lane said Hughes, of no fixed address, posed as a distressed widower to visit the woman, a bereavement counsellor. He raped her three or four times at her home.

Costain fined over death

Costain Construction was fined £15,000 at Inner London crown court yesterday for letting a 68 lb sheet of plywood 8ft by 5ft 6in "sail" seven storeys off a building site, killing Joanne Minavalla, aged 24, of Kingston upon Thames as she walked to work in Southwark, south London.

The sub-contractor, Stephenson Shuttering, was fined £12,000. Both companies admitted failing safely to discharge duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Children hurt

Twelve children received minor injuries yesterday when a school bus hit a wall at Kirkby Malzeard, near Ripon, north Yorkshire. But 31 children and three teachers were unhurt when their coach burst into flames on the M5 near Highbridge, Somerset.

Patient moved

Frank Powell, aged 79, who was comforted by the Princess of Wales after he collapsed with an angina attack, has moved from a cardiac ward to a general ward at Wycombe hospital, Buckinghamshire.

Boats collide

An army enquiry began yesterday into a collision between two boats at Marchwood army port, near Southampton, in which 14 people were thrown into the sea. Four have arm and neck injuries.

Fishy tale

Emma Haddock, aged 20, of Kingsley, Cheshire, started work yesterday as a guide at Blackpool sealife centre. "Even with a name like mine I have always wanted to work with fish," she said.

Kuwait flights

British Airways yesterday resumed flights between Heathrow and Kuwait, the first non-Arab carrier to fly to Kuwait since the Iraqi invasion.

100,000 low-cost homes urged

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 100,000 more low-cost homes for rent or shared ownership are needed each year to enable new households to find somewhere to live, according to a report published yesterday.

This is about three times the number built last year by local authorities and housing associations.

The report, published by the Association of District Councils and the House Builders Federation, shows that 55 per cent of new households under the age of 30 who are coming onto the housing market for the first time need some form of social housing.

Only 28 per cent of these households can buy a new home, while 45 per cent can afford to buy a cheap second-hand property. The report, by Dr Glen Bramley of Bristol university's school for advanced urban studies, says that shared ownership and low-cost sale has an important role in bridging the gap, because 62 per cent of the households could afford to buy under shared ownership. In 1990 only 23 per cent of young single adults could afford to buy a second-hand home, and 15 per cent a new one.

Single-parent families are identified as the poorest group, with virtually none able to buy on the basis of income alone.

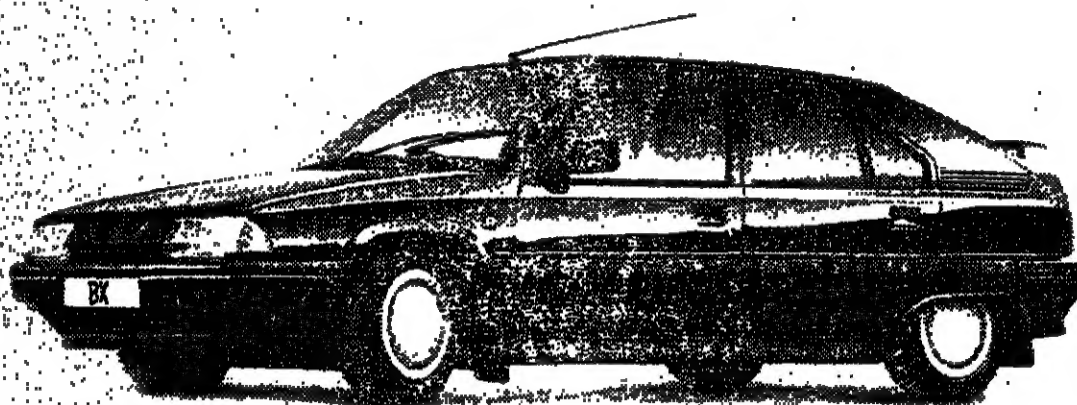
Nearly half (42 per cent) of families with children require rented housing, and 73 per cent of large families have no option but to rent. They are faced with "awesome" difficulties trying to find suitably sized houses, and evidence from recent studies confirms that the right to buy and other trends have greatly reduced the supply of relets of three-bedroom council houses.

The gap between need and actual provision is heavily concentrated in London and the South, with 74 per cent of new households in Greater London unable to afford a second-hand home and 84 per cent unable to afford a new one.

Introducing the report, Lady Anson, chairman of the association's housing assembly, said that as well as increasing funding to local authorities and housing associations, the government would help people greatly by freeing district councils from controls over their capital receipts from housing sales so that they could be used to provide more social housing.

Bridging the Affordability Gap in 1990 (BEC Publications, Federation House, 2309/11 Coventry Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3PL, £11).

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Dangerous dogs bill: registration scheme is irrelevant to this measure, MacGregor insists to the House

Debate delayed as MPs protest against guillotine

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE extent of the government's difficulties over the dangerous dogs bill became apparent last night when the debate on it was delayed for several hours while MPs from both sides protested about the decision to push the measure through all stages in one sitting.

The need to pass the bill as quickly as possible was emphasised by John MacGregor, leader of the House, but his Opposition shadow, John Cunningham, said that the guillotine motion was an example of how governments did stupid things when they were falling apart. Dr Cunningham said that the guillotine was being enforced because the cabinet was terrified that its supporters would vote for a dog registration scheme.

The guillotine motion, which allowed debate to go on until 4am, was carried, however, by 280 votes to 56.

Moving it, Mr MacGregor said that speed was needed with the clause that dealt with fighting dogs.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said it was

unique to have a guillotine motion on a bill that had broad general support. The real reason for it was the demand among MPs, including Conservatives, for a dog registration scheme.

Mr MacGregor insisted that the guillotine was necessary to achieve the timetable by the end of this week.

The House would be open to criticism if, having decided to enact this measure, it were not in place as quickly as possible. The target of royal assent by the summer recess could not be achieved without the motion.

Robert MacLennan, Liberal Democrat spokesman on home affairs, said that there would have been some credibility in the argument if the government had approached Opposition parties about a sensible timetable motion.

Mr MacGregor said that he could not be sure that agreements between the parties would hold without a timetable motion.

Dog registration was irrelevant to the bill.

Dr Cunningham said that

the government was more concerned about disguising its own embarrassment and hiding away in the middle of the night the views of its own backbenchers than having a carefully considered discussion. It was acting now, as it had on occasions in the past, out of expediency in response to criticisms in the tabloid press.

Attacks by savage dogs, of which those by pit bulls were the latest manifestation, was a widespread problem which had existed for a long time. The Opposition was co-operating in speeding the bill through because it knew that there was a need to act, but it also knew that it was necessary to act far more effectively and comprehensively.

"The government knows, as people outside this House will know, that if there were to be a free vote, the House would vote to introduce a dog registration scheme."

Richard Shepherd, Tory MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, complained that too much legislation had been drummed through to the extent where ministers had been unable to explain the provisions of their own acts of Parliament.

In Margaret Thatcher's first term, there had been 30 guillotines; in her second, 10; and in her third, 28. In the entire period of her government there had been 66 guillotines. Their use had reflected to the disadvantage of his party.

Opening the second reading debate, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that recent horrific attacks by dogs on adults and young children had led to a clear demand for swift government action.

"This offence will be a powerful means of ensuring that the owners of all dogs take proper steps to ensure that these dogs are kept properly under control," he said.



Stranger beware: The formidable fangs of a pit bull terrier displaying the animal's power

Computer trackers on the trail

By DAVID YOUNG

PEEKO, a poodle from Peebles, was reunited with its owner yesterday within an hour of straying, thanks to a computerised dog registration scheme of the type that animal welfare workers, veterinary surgeons, farmers and an increasing number of MPs want the government to adopt.

Had the dog, uncharacteristically, bitten someone during its hour on the loose or caused an accident by running on to the road, its owner had the backing of a £1 million insurance policy to pay for any damage.

Like another 200,000 of the estimated 8.5 million dogs in Britain, Peeko's breed, description, medical requirements and details of how its owner can be traced either at home or work are held by the National Pet Register, run by the Wood Green Animal Shelter charity from a converted village

bakery in Heydon in north Hertfordshire.

The register is being offered to the government as a cost-effective way of bringing dangerous dogs under control and meeting demands that dogs should have some form of compulsory insurance.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, has said that the government is having discussions with the operators of dog registration schemes about a way of placing the estimated 20,000 American pit bull terriers and other dogs of fighting breeds on a register. MPs are also demanding another vote on a national registration scheme that was rejected by the Commons by a majority of three a year ago.

Graham Fuller, chief executive of Wood Green Animal Shelter, said: "Despite calls for tighter controls and national registration, the situation re-

mains the same. Some would argue that registration would not prevent attacks and this in part is true, but it would mean that those responsible for the control of the dogs could be more readily identified. Registration would also provide more accurate statistics relating to dog attacks and other anti-social behaviour and more important is the inclusion of third party liability which is included in our scheme.

"To censor an entire breed or type of dog is unjust to those who keep them in an acceptable manner and for the 'right' reasons. Responsible dog owners who are genuinely fond of their pets and want to keep them at all costs would welcome the chance of proving that they are capable of controlling such animals."

The Wood Green computerised system has the

capacity to record registrations for up to 80 million dogs, ten times the number believed to be in Britain; for a one-off fee of £5 each animal's details and those of its owners are recorded. The initial £5 registration fee also provides £2 towards insurance and owners on the register then have to pay only £2 year to keep their liability cover. The charity has suggested that registration could be made a condition of purchase, with the registration fee charged by breeders and pet shops.

Under the scheme, each dog is issued with a registration tag which gives a phone number at the computer centre. Anyone finding such a dog can be directed to the registered owner within minutes of calling or be given details of someone who will look after the dog while the owner is being traced. The computer centre operates 24 hours a day.

Success depends on legal powers

By BILL FROST

SUCCESSFUL registration of dangerous and fighting dogs will depend heavily on the new authority's perceived ability to punish recalcitrant owners. The penalty must be seen to fit the crime.

The authority, even though it is to be a private agency, must show an early willingness to prosecute alleged offenders swiftly and effectively, some of the voluntary bodies that already perform a similar function said.

The RSPCA, the NSPCC and RSPB all provide examples the new authority might follow: they take alleged offenders to court, even when the statutory authorities are sometimes unwilling to support the action. Inspectors working for the three charities are "self-starters". Although they rely heavily on tip-offs from the public, inspectors will look for cases of abuse themselves.

Last year the RSPCA obtained over 2,600 convictions for breaches of the Protection of Animals Act, 1911. The society's inspectors have no power of entry to premises where they believe an animal is being maltreated until magistrates have granted a warrant. However, the success rate, for the granting of such warrants and the eventual verdict, is high.

The NSPCC does not take offenders to court but will apply for place of safety orders on children feared to be at risk. In certain circumstances the society will apply for an enforced entry warrant to raid homes, in tandem with the police, where abuse is suspected.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds takes a high profile on prosecutions too, although most cases are brought by police or customs officers. Andy Jones, head of the RSPB's investigation unit, said yesterday: "We go to court to demonstrate that offences against protected wild birds are important".



ONLY ONE AIRLINE FLIES TO SINGAPORE IN BLUE AND GOLD.

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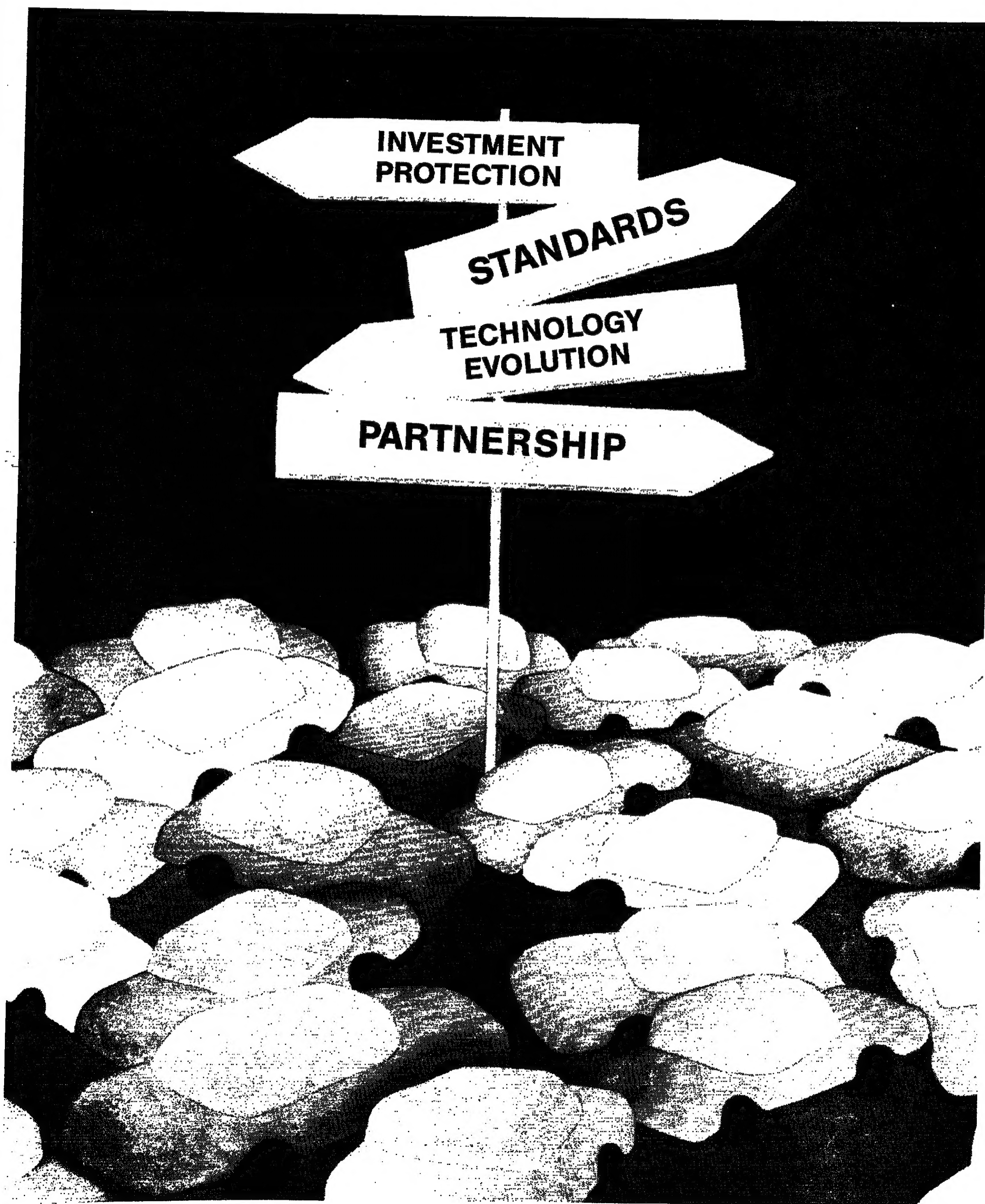
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**Success
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Labour will scrap Tories' post-16 education reforms

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR promised yesterday to scrap planned Conservative reforms for education after the age of 16 if it wins the next general election. Jack Straw, the party's education spokesman, described the white paper proposals as "fraudulent and flawed".

The government is to introduce legislation in the next session of Parliament to remove the remaining colleges from local authority control and to establish a funding council to administer their affairs. A network of regional offices will be responsible for the 557 colleges.

Mr Straw, launching Labour's alternative at the opening of Derby tertiary college, said that further education and sixth form colleges would be given corporate status as charities, strengthening their control over day-to-day affairs and keeping bureaucracy to a minimum. They would remain, however, under the umbrella of local authorities.

For the first time, Labour policy has found a role in

further education for the Training and Enterprise Councils, which would share planning responsibilities with local authorities. The two bodies would be set targets for the proportion of young people staying in education after 16 in each area, and would bid for funds from central government. Quality would be monitored by inspectors from an independent education standards council.

Mr Straw, who is a governor of a tertiary college in his Blackburn constituency, said: "The funding here would be specific, and I make no apologies for saying that the system will be designed to ensure that there is maximum utilisation of every existing resource, whether capital or human. There will be no free rides."

The education and training white papers launched by the prime minister last month were incoherent and had sunk like a stone, Mr Straw said. "As I go round the country, I find increasing opposition to these ill-thought-out plans for

further education. The opposition is bipartisan." The proposals could not be implemented before a general election, and would be scrapped by a Labour government.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that the announcement showed that Mr Straw was totally beholden to Labour council groups. "I really do not think there is a great controversy of principle between the parties. It is a pity that he has only been allowed to make a cautious move in the right direction."

Ealing College of Higher Education has been recommended to Mr Clarke for promotion to polytechnic status, giving it the right subsequently to a university title under the government's higher education reforms.

Ealing met the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council criteria for a change of status after merging with Thames Valley College in Slough, and Queen Charlotte's college of health care studies, in west London.



Straw: Further education colleges will be charities

Tebbit expected to be offered leading poll job

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A POLITICAL comeback for Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative party chairman, is being predicted widely at Westminster.

Senior Tories are pressing the prime minister to find a place for the party's most experienced and effective political street-fighter in the run-up to an election that most expect to be delayed until next year.

They are arguing that with the government in the doldrums and Labour apparently forging ahead on all fronts, John Major cannot afford to do without the Chingford MP, once described by Michael Foot as a "semi house-trained polecat".

Mr Tebbit is not standing at the next election, and his friends and supporters on the Tory benches say that that presents the prime minister with a unique political opportunity. They would like Mr Major to draft him into Conservative Central Office in an unpaid role to give greater bite to the Tories' political campaigning as the election approaches.

They believe that he would

be especially valuable in shoring up the working-class Tory vote and could safely be let loose in an onslaught on Neil Kinnock's leadership qualities.

Government sources were careful yesterday not to rule out a return for Mr Tebbit. While his ministerial days are clearly over, he retains his reputation inside 10 Downing Street as one of the government's most formidable advocates. Senior officials paid tribute to his experience and presentation skills, and indicated that he would be occupying a front-line slot in the Conservative battle for a fourth term in power. They also reminded observers that Mr Tebbit and Mr Major have stayed in close contact since the fall of Margaret Thatcher.

Nevertheless, some delicate political sensitivities are involved as the prime minister ponders the attractions of making Mr Tebbit an integral part of his campaign team. Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, has formal responsibility for taking the Opposition to task, and he may not take too kindly to being asked to hold the towel for Mr Tebbit.

Not even Mr Patten's most devoted admirers, however, would contend that he is a natural political pugilist. They may be persuaded that if blood has to be spilt, the task might best be left to Mr Tebbit.

A more serious problem arises over the contents of the next Tory manifesto. The tensions that arose between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Tebbit in the run-up to the 1987 election could be traced to the then party chairman's insistence that he was as much a policy-maker as a hired political gun.

The indications are that Mr Tebbit will again demand a say in the contents of the manifesto. Mr Patten, who tends to regard this area as a private fiefdom, may be less easy to placate on that issue.

Yet even here Mr Major may sense an opportunity. Tory right-wingers view Mr Patten's unquestioned influence with suspicion and are unlikely to be mollified by the thought that Sarah Hogg, the head of the Downing Street policy unit, and Mr Major himself are the other members of the embryonic manifesto A-team. Calling up Mr Tebbit would provide some much-needed reassurance for that section of the party.

Councils to have parking controls

Local authorities outside London will be allowed to take responsibility for enforcing parking regulations under an amendment to the road traffic bill announced by the government in the Lords yesterday.

Lord Brabazon of Tara, transport minister, said proposals for the new parking regime in London had been well received and he believed the extension would bring similar benefits elsewhere.

The bill provides for the decriminalisation of parking offences in designated areas so that local authorities can enforce parking regulations and retain the income from penalty charges.

Fewer teach

Provisional figures show that the number of teachers in state schools fell by about 5,000 between January 1990 and January this year, according to a written reply from Michael Fallon, under secretary for education. In January there were 393,720 teachers compared with 398,542 a year earlier.

Another reply from Mr Fallon put the teacher-pupil ratio at 17.25 pupils for each teacher.

Ethiopia aid

So far this year the government has provided £22.6 million in bilateral humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia, Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, said in a written reply. It is expected that more will be provided during the year. Aid is channelled through multilateral and British voluntary agencies.

Lead shot

The Nature Conservancy Council has been asked to assess the extent of any danger from lead shot to wildlife and its habitat, Tony Baldry, under secretary for the environment, said in a written reply.

Absent staff



Latest figures show that about 4 per cent of days were lost due to sickness absence in the non-industrial civil service. Gillian Shephard (above), Treasury minister of state, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions. Employment and prime minister. Local government finance and valuation bill, committee. Lords (2.30): Export and investment guarantees bill, second reading.

Investment for Wales

MORE than 700 new jobs in Wales were announced yesterday by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary. He told MPs that the jobs would be created at 14 industrial projects involving investment of more than £20 million.

Mr Hunt said that investment in Wales from outside the principality since last year now exceeded £1 billion. The new schemes were a tremendous boost for Wales. "They are tangible evidence of the marvellous willingness and confidence of companies to invest in Wales."

Barry Jones, shadow Welsh secretary, protested that the principality's unemployment had risen by a quarter in the past six months. He challenged Mr Hunt to "admit your responsibility for the recession that is hurting Wales now".

Mr Hunt replied that Wales could not isolate itself from the recession.

Ministry facing £19m sales loss

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE employment department may lose an estimated £18.9 million from the sale or closure of 60 skill centres because of the collapse of property prices, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

Last year the government sold most of the loss-making Skills Training Agency, providing training mainly to the unemployed, to a management buyout team, Astra Training Services. The department then planned to sell the remaining properties, valued at £47 million. The audit office said: "Sales have proved difficult mainly because of the collapse in the office property market and a significant reduction in demand for industrial sites, with little prospect of a revival in the near future. As a result, there is a risk that the sale of the agency as a whole will not produce a positive return for

the exchequer." The government paid Astra £10.7 million to buy 45 skill centre businesses and some other part of the agency, which made a loss of nearly £19 million in 1988-9. It also sold a further six skill centres to other buyers. The remaining nine centres were closed. The department estimated that to close the whole agency would have cost £22.8 million in redundancy and rundown expenses.

Although the department received 275 expressions of interest in the agency, only 16 potential buyers put in final bids. The audit office criticised officials for not making clear at the start to all potential bidders that the department wanted to sever all links with the centres.

National Audit Office: Sale of the Skills Training Agency (Stationery Office, £4.45).

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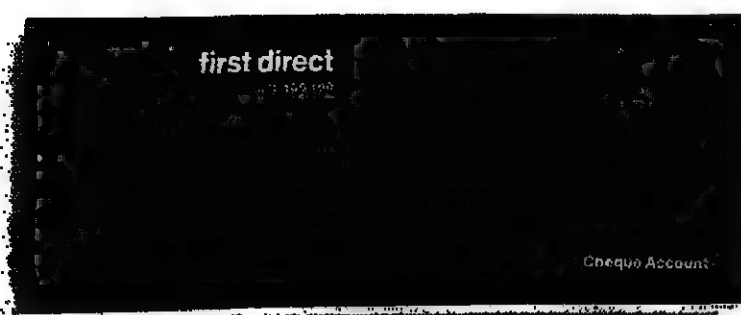
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Pacific region braced for volcanic outflow



Waking giant: smoke rising yesterday from Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, forcing locals to flee

SIMULTANEOUS eruptions of volcanoes in Japan and the Philippines appears to be a coincidence, though the same basic cause is responsible for both. They lie in a ring of active volcanoes which circles the Pacific ocean, created by the movement of the plates that carry the continents.

At any time there are about 20-30 volcanoes erupting in the world, according to figures gathered by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. Most go unreported because they are small eruptions, or remote from centres of population.

The 11 years since the 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens in the state of Washington in America have, nevertheless, been the worst period for volcanic hazards since the early years of the century. This does not reflect an increase in the number of active volcanoes, but the fact that the world's population is bigger and therefore more people are exposed to danger.

Volcanoes around the Pacific have the same basic cause, the movement of the tectonic plates responsible for continental drift. At the edges of the Pacific the oceanic plates collide with

Nigel Hawkes explains the sudden crop of volcanic eruptions round the Pacific basin

the continental plates and are pushed downwards beneath the crust. Solid material that is carried down melts or boils in the intense heat of the mantle, becoming lighter and forcing its way upwards again, erupting into the atmosphere as ash, vapour and molten rock.

The movement of the plates causes the heating, but it is the instability of the molten rock that determines the precise moment of the eruption. Plate movements are also responsible for earthquakes, but scientists at the US Geological Survey do not expect the eruptions in the Pacific to be harbingers of a major earthquake.

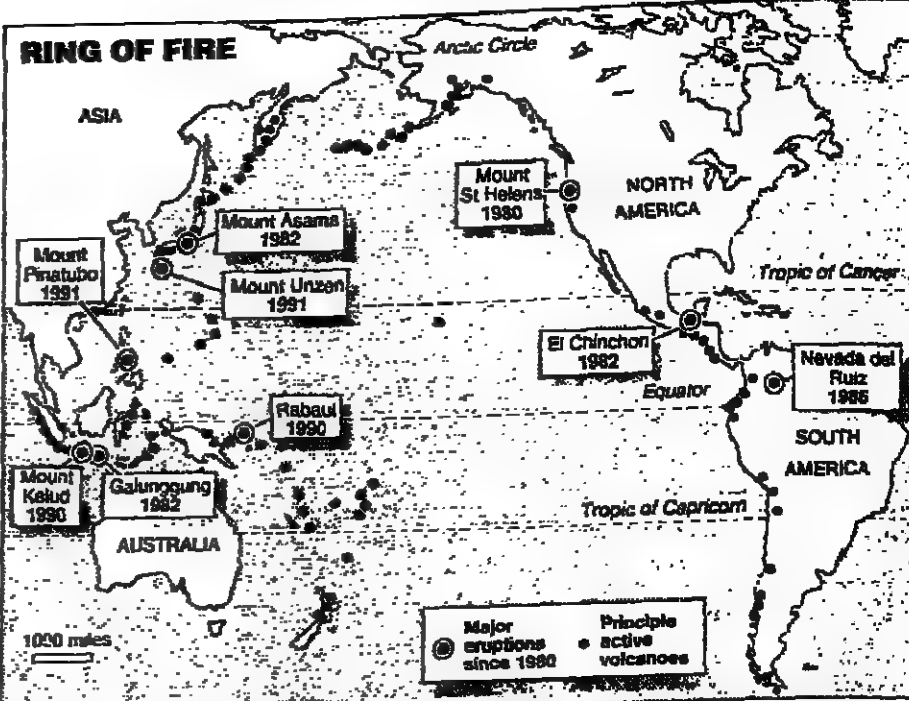
Although there have been some big eruptions since 1980, they pale into insignificance when compared with those in the geological past. Even Mount St Helens, which exploded with the power of one Hiroshima-sized bomb going off every

second for nine hours, was only a fraction the size of eruptions in the geological record.

● **Manila:** More than 10,000 Filipinos, including mountain tribes, were yesterday fleeing their homes on the slopes of Mount Pinatubo, 60 miles north of the capital, Manila (Vandine England writes). Dormant for 600 years, the volcano began emitting ash, rock, mud and rivers of lava on Sunday afternoon.

Starting at dawn, 15,000 troops and dependents resident at the American Clark Air Base, 10 miles east of the volcano, joined the exodus. They were being moved to Subic Bay naval base as fears of a greater eruption intensify. About 1,000 American troops remain at Clark to protect the sensitive facility from looters.

Four minor eruptions were recorded yesterday, but the Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology describes the activity as an eruption in progress, which they fear could be a prelude to a much larger explosion at any moment. "Unfortunately this is just the beginning - stronger and bigger eruptions are still possible,"



said Raymundo Punongbayan, the chief volcanologist.

Eye-witness reports say the American evacuation is like a camping trip. "There is no tension whatsoever," reported David Lagman, a cameraman who watched the convoy. But the seemingly endless stream of cars moved

slowly through a series of checkpoints, set up due to fears that the communist New Peoples Army could easily target such a large group of American servicemen.

Meanwhile, Mount Unzen in western Japan erupted again late yesterday. Heated rocks, pumice and volcanic

ash roared 300 yards down the 4,943ft mountain.

Helicopters spotted the flows which were tumbling down the steep slope of the mountain in Shimabara city, causing thick clouds of smoke. There were no immediate reports of any injuries or fires, but more than 30 people were killed last week.

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When using power tools and working in a dusty environment, you'll need to protect your lungs from breathing in dust or fumes.

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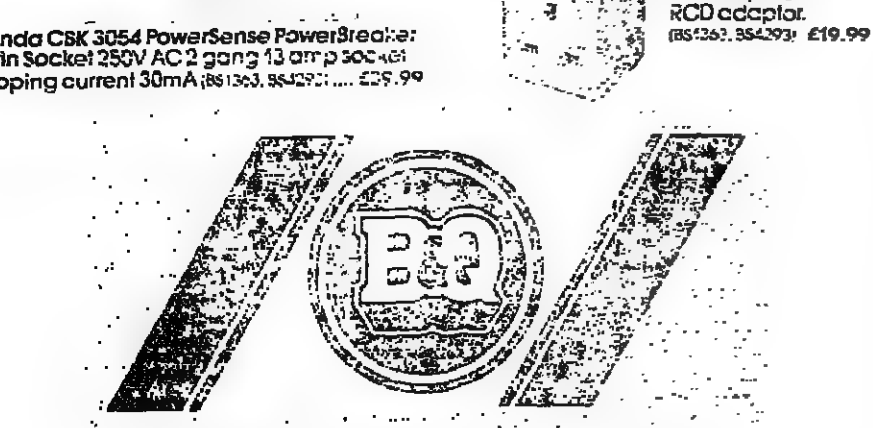
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Soviet Jews delay leaving

FROM RICHARD BESTON IN JERUSALEM

THOUSANDS of Soviet Jews appear to have postponed emigrating to Israel until they have obtained a Soviet passport first, enabling them to hold dual nationality once they start their new lives in the Jewish state.

Yitzhak Peretz, the immigration minister, admitted on Sunday that only half the estimated 400,000 Soviet Jews due to settle in Israel this year, will emigrate and blamed the delay on the shortage of work and housing in Israel. However, it also emerged that many Jews wanted to keep their existing nationality as an insurance policy.

Gaela Cohen, the deputy science minister, said that the decision could delay the departure of Jews by several months but the advantages were clear. Soviet Jews coming to Israel would, in future, retain their rights of citizenship, including holding property, conducting business and returning as often as they liked. "They will have much more freedom now, and many more opportunities open to them," she said.

When Soviet authorities announced that from July 1 all citizens would need a valid passport before leaving, the Jewish agency in charge of immigration predicted that Israel should prepare for numerous Soviet Jews eager to emigrate before the deadline. Until then, Jews leaving the Soviet Union only require an exit visa and are granted Israeli nationality on arrival.

But Jews still in the Soviet Union are more cautious about starting new lives in Israel and many have been told by immigrants that they face difficulties assimilating into a society saturated with highly qualified newcomers. The dissatisfaction felt by many Soviet immigrants about conditions in Israel has received wide media coverage, with the latest reports detailing the plight of 26 Soviet families living under canvas in the northern town of Karmiel because they can no longer afford to rent property and have been unable to find steady work. Many of the Russians are middle-aged professionals who rely on a soup kitchen for food and donations of clothing.



Hostage mission: David Tatham, the British envoy to Lebanon, right, with Douglas Hogg, the foreign office minister, second right, in Beirut. Hogg is attempting to help Western hostages

Talabani says Iraq is stalling

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN ISTANBUL

A SENIOR Kurdish guerrilla leader said yesterday that Iraqi negotiators were deliberately stalling talks on Kurdish autonomy because they were waiting for an allied withdrawal from northern Iraq to weaken the Kurds' bargaining position.

Jalal Talabani also repeated that an early allied withdrawal would cause a second mass exodus of Iraqi Kurds fearful of being subjected to the government of President Saddam Hussein again. "I think, of course, that the Iraqi government is trying to use all his cards in the negotiations," the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said. He said that it was in Baghdad's interests to wait for an allied departure, and in the Kurds' interests to reach an agreement while they were still there.

"It is expected that all sides will try to use all their cards... let us be optimistic about the negotiations that are going on in Baghdad," he said.

Fears grow of Iraq attack on Shias

By HAZRET TEIMOURIAN

FEAR continued yesterday among Iraqi exiles that President Saddam Hussein's forces were planning to attack thousands of refugees hiding in marshes west of the Shatt al-Arab waterway at the head of the Gulf.

Yesterday a senior Foreign Office official told a delegation of the Iraqi opposition that Britain had warned Baghdad not to launch an offensive. Opposition leaders have sent letters to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations, asking that inspectors should be dispatched to the area and a safe haven set up.

Ahmad Chalabi, a member of the Joint Action Committee, said between 500,000 and 850,000 people might be hiding in the marshes between Basra, Nasiriyah and Amara. "There is constant noise of artillery from around the marshes. Now we fear that a major attack may be imminent," Dr Chalabi said he had heard that the operation would be called al-Anfal, after a chapter in the Koran. The

area was cut off and surrounded by government troops. Tehran radio yesterday described the perceived danger threatening the refugees as "another Halabja", referring to the chemical weapons attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja in March 1988 when about 5,000 civilians died from poison and nerve gases.

According to Abdul Abbas, a spokesman for the Shia Dawa party and a member of the delegation that visited the Foreign Office, Britain had delivered the warning to Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's ambassador at the United Nations, on Saturday.



Kohl admits mistakes over unity

WELMAR - Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, admitted at a congress of his Christian Democratic Union that he made a whole series of mistakes when steering Germany to unity, "because we did not see the extent of the wreckage inherited left by the communist regime".

He said he would push ahead with his programme, and called on the party to show firmness and fighting commitment, suggesting there was room for optimism that the gap in living standards between the two sides of the country was shrinking. (AFP)

Arrau burial
Vienna - Claudio Arrau, the concert pianist who died in Austria on Sunday, will be buried in his native Chile, his manager, William Melton, said. "He will be flown to Chile. That's definite." The Chilean government declared a day of national mourning to mark Arrau's death. (Reuters) Obituary, page 20

Money order

Luxembourg - The European Community ordered members states yesterday to prohibit money-laundering through banks by the end of 1992. EC finance ministers formally approved a law defining laundering as hiding money earned from drug trafficking or other criminal activities in the banking system. (Reuters)

Jogging along

Washington - President Bush jogged two miles yesterday in his longest run since he was taken to hospital on May 4 for treatment of an irregular heartbeat. A spokesman said Mr Bush was feeling good after the jog at Camp David. (Reuters)

Deaf raid

Auckland - Three deaf-mutes who broke into the music room of an Auckland high school were arrested after they failed to hear a burglar alarm. (Reuters)

New York embraces 'mother of parades'

FROM ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN IN NEW YORK

HUNDREDS of thousands of singing, cheering and chanting New Yorkers showered returning veterans with confetti, ticker tape and computer paper yesterday in a joyous celebration marking victory in the Gulf war.

Lower Broadway's mile-long "Canyon of Heroes", where Lindbergh, Eisenhower, the Apollo astronauts and soldiers of three other wars were feted, was awash with yellow ribbons, American flags and good cheer for the nation's biggest parade honouring those who fought against Iraq.

Dick Cheney, the secretary of defence, General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and a native New Yorker, and General Norman Schwarzkopf, the al-

lied commander in the desert, led 24,000 marchers from the lower tip of Manhattan to City Hall in the four-hour parade, expected to set a world record for paper throwing by day's end street sweepers will have to contend with an estimated 6,000 tons of it.

Under a bright sun crowds stood 15 to 20 deep on the streets lining the route. With their wives, the "Big Three" of the Gulf war rode in separate open convertibles, standing to accept the cheers of the crowd, many of whom shouted "We love you" at a constantly smiling General Schwarzkopf.

Dozens of security men surrounded the cars as Broadway turned white with the blizzard of falling paper. Sweepers went into immedi-

ate action to brush it aside so that motorcycle escorts could pass. Immediately behind the motorcyclists were 4,761 soldiers, sailors and marines, marching bands and military vehicles, including Patton tanks mounted on flat-bed lorries. Also in the parade were Kurdish rebels, men on stilts and a woman painted pale green and dressed as the Statue of Liberty.

Mingling in the crowd were look-alikes of New York's mayor, David Dinkins, and General Schwarzkopf, the real model-actress Brooke Shields and a man with a 10ft cross which he said he was carrying for Jesus. Men dressed in Civil war uniforms vied for attention with others in those of the War of Independence.

Half the marchers had

served in the Gulf but many others had served in Vietnam and they spoke of the bitterness they felt when they returned home to silence and indifference. New York did not give a ticker-tape parade for Vietnam veterans until 1985.

Mayor Dinkins, who declared yesterday's event "the mother of all parades", gave the keys of the city to General Powell, Mr Cheney and General Schwarzkopf at a breakfast news conference before the parade itself got underway. The state governor of New York, Mario Cuomo, presented the three with New York's Conspicuous Service Medal, the highest honour which the state can bestow. (Reuters)

مكتبة الجليل

There's still time to apply for shares in Hydro-Electric and ScottishPower, the two Scottish electricity companies. You'll find prospectuses and application forms available at branches of NatWest and Ulster Bank, Scottish banks in England and Wales and most

Just one day left



So get a wiggle on

banks and post offices throughout Scotland. Alternatively, application forms which you will find printed in newspapers can be used to apply for shares. Time is running out and remember, you don't have to be Scottish to apply for shares.

Offers close 10.00am tomorrow.



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offers

Commonwealth told to improve record on human rights

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMMONWEALTH leaders were asked yesterday to give urgent attention to their attitude on human rights as a report condemned the deplorable record of some member states.

The report, Put Our World To Rights, by an advisory group to the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, called on heads of government to set up a standing commission to monitor human rights and accused the Commonwealth of ignoring abuses in a number of countries. The record of some countries was "deplorable and often appalling", with gross violations of international covenants. Numerous Commonwealth citizens lived in constant fear for their lives.

With the organisation's focus shifting from South Africa, leaders were told that the organisation risked a loss of credibility and isolation unless it devoted more attention to human rights. "The Commonwealth and its members must take immediate and effective action to remedy its

record on human rights. We must never allow, in any of our member states, the kinds of activities that were tolerated during Idi Amin's regime in Uganda," it said.

The report is a strong indictment of the human rights record of many Commonwealth countries and it said that if the organisation wanted to retain support, it must ensure that citizens' rights were high on its agenda. Roger Chongwe, president of the Commonwealth lawyers association, criticised the record of African states in areas such as freedom of expression and the right to form political parties.

He said: "For 20 years most of the African countries, including Commonwealth countries, have had one-party systems of government which is inconsistent with the provision of United Nations' conventions. This has gone on for year after year." Mr Chongwe accused many African countries of paying lip-service to the idea of freedom of expression.

The report said that a declaration of principle on human rights should be adopted at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare in October. A standing commission to monitor human rights should also be set up and its findings should be published every two years. "It has, too often, turned a blind eye to abuses of human rights in member countries. There have been few Commonwealth initiatives for the promotion of human rights. There is no important Commonwealth pronouncement on human rights, except for some statements against racism."

The authors outline a role for the Commonwealth in which human rights would provide a focus for the organisation in the wake of the declining importance of the struggle against colonialism. "Another reason for the Commonwealth to take human rights seriously now is that, on the whole, its members' record on human rights is poor."



Day to remember: The Princess of Wales talking to children at a Drumhead memorial service in Münster yesterday for the 25 British soldiers who died fighting to liberate Kuwait. British soldiers toasted the Princess and Princess at a meal after the service. The event took place through the initiative of General Sir Peter Inge, commander of the British Army of the Rhine (Ian Murray writes from Münster).

Although 25,000 of his men formed the largest part of the 35,000 British contingent in the war, only 99 of those chosen to take part in last month's service in Glasgow cathedral were from his command. Sir Peter honours his men. He then lobbied big business for sponsors to pay for a meal where they could meet and chat to the Royal couple. Within a week the

money had been found. The army contributed lunch for 3,500 men and Lufthansa provided cold meats, salad and strawberries and cream. Coca Cola presented each man with a metal memento on a card saying "Thanks". The red enamelled badge was made in China, with the sponsor's name embossed on a map of Germany. "It's the first going we've had," said a corporal, pinning it on his shoulder.

Cynicism reigns in land of Uncle Ho

From JAMES PRINGLE IN HANOI

AS THE joke going the rounds among party officials here has it, Vietnam's Communist leader, Nguyen Van Linh, was flying with his prime minister over one of Vietnam's poorer provinces when he decided to throw a 5,000 dong (50p) note from the helicopter, saying "at least one person can have a good meal and feel happy". But the prime minister, Do Muoi, had a better idea: "Why not throw out five 5,000 dong notes and five people can eat and feel happy?" Then they saw the pilot laughing: "Why don't you both throw yourselves out," the pilot asked boldly. "Then everyone in Vietnam will be happy."

The story does not mean that the party's general secretary and the prime minister, both tough, former Viet Minh guerrillas trained by the late Ho Chi Minh, are not well enough thought of. It is just that Vietnam's Communist luminaries no longer stand on the kind of pedestal reserved for "Uncle Ho", one of the world's few communist leaders not discredited at home.

The country's mood is a mixture of hope and resignation in the run-up to the seventh congress of the ruling Vietnamese Communist party later this month. Hope, because under the policy of economic renovation introduced at the last congress five years ago, some Vietnamese are prospering, while foreign business investors are at least beginning to show some interest. Resignation because following a poor rice harvest in northern areas some Vietnamese are going hungry and the number of boat people leaving for Hong Kong is five times higher than in the same period last year.

Chief among the causes of the country's problems is the fact that the Soviet Union, Vietnam's former ideological mentor, has cut credits drastically. Moscow insists that future payments for oil and fertiliser, even military training, must be in hard currency at world prices. "There is a widespread feeling the Russians have left Vietnam high and dry", one ambassador here said. Vietnam's leaders have seen their erstwhile East European allies literally vanish. They find themselves reluctantly thrust towards China, a traditional enemy but few ideological soul mates. Two million people are unemployed, inflation is rising by 10 per cent monthly, corruption is rife and cynicism reigns. People survive by taking on second and third jobs; few people spend more than a few hours at their desks in state-run enterprises where they earn about £7 a month.

Just as East Europeans face growing disillusionment as the road to reform proves rocky, the mood here is changing but unrest is unlikely. "It isn't true people are returning from Eastern Europe with ideas of overthrowing the old order," the envoy said. "They are seeing at first hand that that doesn't work and they prefer stability first."

Mandela marriage 'trouble'

Johannesburg — Persistent rumours of marital problems between Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, and Winnie, his impetuous wife, have surfaced in *City Press*, a South African black newspaper (Gavin Bell writes).

The report, quickly denied by the ANC, said the "leaked information" was related to a power struggle in the organisation as it prepares for its national congress in July at which new leaders are to be elected. *City Press* attributed the rumours to members of the ANC's intelligence department.

Coup fears

Sydney — Fears of a military coup in Fiji have been prompted by an army commander who has asked Fiji's interim government to resign. Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, who seized power in a coup in 1987, attacked the government of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara in a newspaper interview.

Colony talks

Hong Kong — British and Chinese officials open three days of negotiations on arrangements for Hong Kong's future. The talks start amid fears that China will block any progress until the dispute over the political and economic control of the British colony's multi-billion-pound airport project is resolved to Peking's liking.

Heat kills 300

Karachi — Another 200 people have died in temperatures of up to 125°F in Pakistan's southern Sindh province, bringing the toll to 300. (Reuters)

Car phone fuels political rivalry

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

OLD-STYLE political rivalries do not die in America; they just flare up with new technology. The cellular car telephone is at the centre of a long-standing feud between two of Virginia's leading Democrats, Douglas Wilder, the country's first black state governor, and Charles Robb, a US senator. Mr Robb, stung by criticism in the local press, admitted that his office once had a tape of conversations between the governor and a member of staff on the telephone in Mr Wilder's state limousine. Mr Wilder apparently told his adviser that Mr Robb's career was finished because of repeated bad publicity about his private life, including alleged drug use at beach parties. Mr Wilder has accused the senator and his staff of wiretapping, which is a criminal act under federal and Virginia law.

The state's central Republican committee has voted unanimously in favour of an investigation into the cave-dropping. Top Democratic state lawmakers, questioning links between the police and Mr Wilder, want the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be brought in. Rivalry between the two dates back several years to

Mr Wilder's election as Virginia's lieutenant-governor. Clearly piqued to be nudged from the limelight, Mr Robb made public two letters critical of Mr Wilder and later blamed him for reviving allegations about his past.

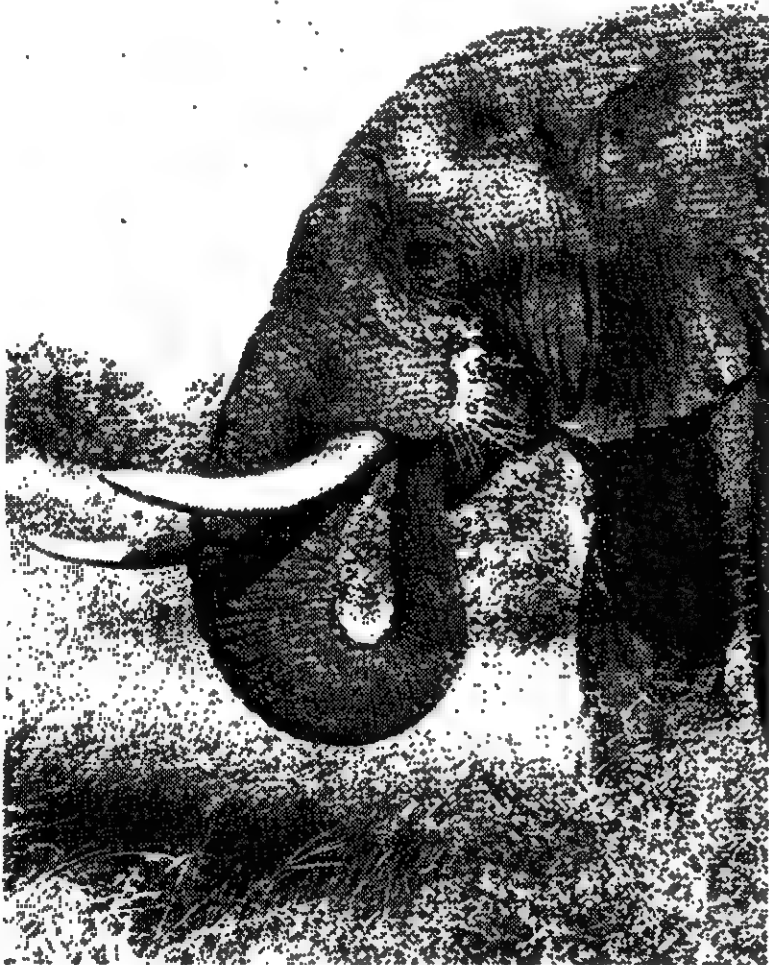
The mutual animosity grew in 1989 when Mr Wilder won the governorship of his state by less than half of a percentage point after his campaign image-makers used an advertisement containing an earlier endorsement of his politics by Mr Robb.

The car telephone spat follows several colourful turns in the Robb-Wilder contest for attention. Earlier this summer, a private detective hired by Republicans published a book about Mr Robb, while a national television network aired a programme that stirred up the beach-party controversy.

In the latest twist, the senator claims never to have heard the tape, although his staff had the recording for more than two years before they destroyed it. His office has denied giving copies of the tape to anyone, but the Washington Post has published a partial transcript.

WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF SOUTH AFRICA, THEY TEND TO THINK OF THE BIG CATS, RHINO, BUFFALO AND ELEPHANT. IN LARGE NUMBERS.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE DO HAVE LARGE GAME RESERVES WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF GAME.



MILES, THERE IS ALSO THE BEST DEEP-SEA FISHING THIS SIDE OF THE BAHAMAS, THE BIGGEST SURFING WAVES OUTSIDE OF HAWAII AND MILES AND MILES OF HIKING TRAILS THROUGH PROTECTED MARINE COASTAL RESERVES.

ALL AT A FRACTION

FOR YOU, MAY WE SUGGEST AVOCADO & SHRIMPS FOLLOWED BY FRESH ROCK LOBSTER WASHED DOWN WITH A DELICATE CHARDONNAY. ALL IN, ABOUT £36 FOR TWO AT A TOP RESTAURANT.

KRUGER PARK ALONE IS HOME TO SOME 7,300 ELEPHANT.

THERE IS, THOUGH, MORE TO SOUTH AFRICA THAN GAME RESERVES BIG ENOUGH TO HOUSE ALMOST HALF OF GREAT BRITAIN.

WITH A COASTLINE STRETCHING 1,900

OF THE PRICE YOU'D PAY AT EITHER OF THE DESTINATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. THANKS TO AN EXCELLENT POUND STERLING EXCHANGE RATE.

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مكتبة

Russia looks to the ballot box after historic campaign



Bakatin: cleverly conceals disciplinary views



Yeltsin: should win, barring Kremlin dirty tricks



Ryzhkov: honest moderate who should come second



Gromov: military man who toughens Ryzhkov ticket



Makashov: hardliner hoping to restore Russia's greatness



Zhirnovsky: fiery orator seen as the KGB's candidate

Vadim Viktorovich Bakatin: Aged 53; member of Communist party. Career: construction engineer, then full-time party worker. Former Soviet interior minister, now a member of the president's security council. Political complexion: Gorbachevite party reformist. Strengths: cleverly conceals disciplinary views behind highly telegraphic and articulate exterior. Hopes to appeal to party reformists and intellectuals. Weaknesses: seen as Gorbachev's place-man and party apparatchik.

Running mate: Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich Abdulatipov, aged 44. Chairman of the Chamber of Nationalities in the Russian Federation parliament. Member of Avari minority from north Caucasus. Political complexion: centre-wing reformist. Strengths: should attract non-ethnic Russian vote. Weaknesses: not liked by ethnic Russians; relatively poor command of Russian.

Campaign slogan: the politics of common sense. Prediction: has consistently come third in opinion polls, but might overtake Ryzhkov on polling day.

Boris Nikolaevich Yeltsin: Aged 60; left Communist party last July; now non-

party. Career: construction engineer, then full-time party worker. Resigned as Moscow party boss and sent into wilderness by Gorbachev; returned in triumph as elected deputy to Soviet parliament 1989; elected chairman of Russian parliament May 1990. Political complexion: radical reformist, but not so radical as to advocate break-up of Soviet Union. Strengths: uncanny ability to sense popular mood; took on the regime and won. Weaknesses: suspected by ethnic minorities of closet Russian nationalism, by Russians of favouring "sell-out" in Baltic and Kurile Islands, and by intellectuals of crudeness.

Running mate: Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutsok, aged 43. Member of Communist party and founder of reformist Communists for Democracy group. Career: military officer, air force pilot. Political complexion: party reformist, more radical than Bakatin. Strengths: should attract part of the Communist party and armed forces vote. Weaknesses: any association with party losses votes from radicals.

Campaign slogan: strong republics, strong union; from people's deputy to

people's president. Prediction: will win easily, possibly in the first ballot barring Kremlin dirty tricks.

Vladimir Volfovich Zhirnovsky: Aged 45, founder member of Liberal Democratic party. Career: orientalist and lawyer; now chairman of Liberal Democratic party. Political complexion: hardline disciplinarian with surprising flashes of reformism, as on market economy. Strengths: fiery orator captures elements of popular mood. Weaknesses: Seen as the KGB candidate.

Running mate: Andrei Fedorovich Zavidov, aged 38. Communist party member. Career: engineer who heads a joint commercial venture. Political complexion: strange, but increasingly noticeable, alliance of the party and business. Strengths: new breed of businessman. Weaknesses: unknown.

Campaign slogan: discipline and self-help. Prediction: will fail in first round.

Albert Mikhailovich Makashov: Born 53 on election day; member of Communist party. Career: military officer, a colonel-general who commands Volga-Urals military region. Political complexion: hardline conservative and follower of Ligachev, the former challenger to Gorbachev; opposes rush to market economy and "loss" of Eastern Europe. Strengths: the only outright conservative; interviews well and states home truths with conviction. Weaknesses: oratory sounds irresponsibly extremist; army and party allegiance.

Running mate: Aleksei Alekseyevich Sergeyev, aged 60. Communist party member. Career: academic economist; now leading light of Soviet conservative economics. Political complexion: Liga-

chevite. Strength: academic respectability. Weakness: known as conservative.

Campaign slogan: restore Russia's greatness. Prediction: could surprise pollsters with more than 5 per cent on election day, but no real chance.

Nikolai Ivanovich Ryzhkov: Aged 61, member of Communist party. Career: construction engineer; long-time head of gigantic metallurgical combine Uralmash at Sverdlovsk; Gorbachev's prime minister until December 1990; now pensioner. Political complexion: moderate conservative. Strengths: unchallenged reputation for integrity, honesty and niceness. Represents "silent majority", especially in countryside. Weaknesses: seen as weak prime minister who contributed to current economic troubles, overemotional, nicknamed "weeping Bolshevik", and questionable health after heart attack.

Running mate: Boris Vsevolodovich Gromov, aged 47. Communist party member. Career: military officer, led withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, head of Kiev military region; now deputy interior minister (seconded for duration of campaign). Political

complexion: discipline and integrity, moderate conservative. Strengths: reputation as gifted and honourable commander, brings toughness to the Ryzhkov ticket. Weaknesses: seen by radicals as a hardliner.

Campaign slogan: integrity and caution, the welfare of the people. Prediction: should come second in the first round, but may not force second round.

Amnat-Geldy Makhmagazovich Tuleyev: Aged 47. Communist party member. Career: railway engineer; radical political leader in Kuzbass mining region. Political complexion: reformist, anti-establishment. Strengths: identification with workers and local support. Weaknesses: little known outside Kuzbass and lack of political experience.

Running mate: Viktor Ivanovich Bocharov, aged 57. Member of Communist party. Career: engineer, mine manager in Kuzbass. Political complexion: reformist, workers' welfare. Strengths: enlightened manager, represents workers' interests. Weaknesses: little known nationally.

Political slogan: workers' well-being. Prediction: minimal success.

As Russians prepare to go the polls tomorrow, Mary Dejevsky gives a rundown of the six candidates, and their running mates, pursuing the presidency of the Russian Federation

Moscow television embraces Western election gimmicks

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

A BRIGHT banner-like heading flashes across the television screen in red: "Russia's president. Now for our special election feature. Today we bring you the latest stage of the contest for the presidency of the Russian Federation."

The programme is made up of news, views and opinion polls from around the country, including shots of the candidates dressed up in farming gear, smiling engagingly at the circle of potential voters around them, and promising all manner of benefits in months to come.

To the foreign audience, such headings, television devices and talk of a contest for the national leadership, running-mates and platforms, seem so normal as to be almost unworthy of comment. But this is Russia, the dominant republic of the Soviet Union, where there has never been a leadership election and where the concept of a presidency, let alone an election for it, is frighteningly novel.

Nor have the special election features been unique to the newly established Russian television network.

They have been a regular part of coverage by Soviet central television, whose traditional current affairs directorate bears the standard of Leonid Kravchenko's six-month reign.

Until Russian television went on the air in April, Mr Kravchenko was the regular butt of criticism from radicals. His election brief seems to be to slow down the Yeltsin bandwagon as far as possible, but not to victimise the Russian leader so thoroughly that he wins more votes. At Russian television the reverse philosophy has pertained.

After initial criticism, the tendency to laud Mr Yeltsin and all his deeds to the skies has mostly been restrained and Boris Nikolaevich has not topped all the news bulletins. The appearance of mutual restraint, however, has not prevented a fight for audiences that makes British scheduling battles look tame.

On Saturday night, late changes to the schedule saw a particularly weak performance by Nikolai Ryzhkov in Russian television's pre-election equivalent of *Face the Press*, pitched against

central television's two-hour retrospective on one of the Soviet Union's most popular comedians. On Sunday, Mr Yeltsin produced a highly convincing performance on the same *Face the Press* programme, immediately followed by two military men in uniform explaining to singularly helpful interviewers why Mr Yeltsin's policies were good for the army.

Many Russians find the nightly divergence of views and allegiances disconcerting. At last year's parliamentary elections and before the March referendum diverse views were represented in the press, but television presented a united front. People could take it or leave it, but they knew where the centre stood.

No longer. They are bombarded with opposing views. The conservative press has campaigned viciously against Mr Yeltsin, preferring almost any of the other five candidates.

Sovetskaya Rossiya has preferred Mr Ryzhkov and last week tried to implicate Mr Yeltsin with the Italian mafia, a charge which refused to stick. *Pravda* tends to



Victory salute: a supporter of Boris Yeltsin shows his enthusiasm for the election favourite, giving a victory sign in Moscow on the eve of polling for the presidency of the Russian Federation

words Vadim Bakatin, a Gorbachevite.

Yesterday, in a last-ditch foray against Mr Yeltsin, *Pravda* published a character analysis of the Russian leader by supposedly respectable linguists and psychologists. They purported to examine Mr Yeltsin's pronounce-

ments "scientifically" and found them "inconsistent", "authoritarian" and generally unsound.

A ban on electioneering comes into force 24 hours before the start of polling, but this is almost the only restraint. There are no special election regulations for

broadcasting, as there are in Britain.

The only other restriction applies to campaign expenses.

A central Moscow rally in support of Mr Yeltsin and the radicals' candidate for mayor of Moscow, Gavril Popov, yesterday evening

was the first big outdoor event staged by any of the candidates in Moscow.

Otherwise, most of the campaigning has been in the Russian heartland, the industrial cities of the Urals and the agricultural towns of south central Russia.

Politicians under fire over arms

Geneva - America and the Soviet Union were criticised yesterday for a "failure of perception and leadership" in their negotiations on the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (writes Alan McGregor).

The joint statement issued by some 40 scientists, military personnel, academics and diplomats attending the Pugwash conference here, said Washington and Moscow had failed to exploit the scale of change in East-West relations.

Pavlov returns

Moscow - Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet prime minister who is under pressure to explain disastrous budget figures for the first quarter, has cut short a visit to Yugoslavia after signing an economic agreement. It is thought that the Soviet leadership wants to co-ordinate its strategy in the event of a big Yeltsin victory.

Stained image

Moscow - A Siberian man was arrested in Red Square after throwing two bottles of ink at the Lenin mausoleum. He was taken to a psychiatric hospital. (AP)

Mitterrand condemns race riots

Paris - President Mitterrand ordered measures to curb violence in France after the killings of a policeman and an Arab immigrant at the weekend increased fears of a summer of race riots.

Mitterrand told Philippe Marchand, the interior minister, yesterday that "nothing can justify daily gratuitous violence and the most firm instructions must be given to combat it". Violence "must be stamped out", he said.

M Marchand has sent riot police to reinforce units in areas where youths have rioted this year. (Reuters)

Blackmail claim

Athens - George Koskotas, the banker, giving evidence for the prosecution, told the court trying Andreas Papanastasiou and two of his former ministers that the one-time prime minister had blackmailed him into using bank funds to support Papanastasiou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement. (AP)

Flights halted

Warsaw - Poland's 200 air traffic controllers halted all flights over the country as they went on strike for wages and working conditions equal to those in the West. The government refused to enter any negotiations. (Reuters)

Romania searches its soul at the grave of Ceausescu

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

LIKE figures out of Greek mythology, two crows sit on a bench beside the grave. "He's here," says one, "and she's on the other side of the path." They sit at the graveside of Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena. One wears a black headscarf, the other a blue one over her eye like a patch. "Those who come to put flowers have souls. He deserves them."

Executed on Christmas Day in 1989, the Ceausescus were secretly buried in Bucharest's Ghencea cemetery. Originally, the graves were marked by wooden crosses bearing other names. Now they have gone. But in a cemetery of grand family mausoleums, monuments and busts, none are honoured with as many candles or flowers. At the foot of Nicolae Ceausescu's grave is a small shrine to protect the candles from the wind and rain.

People visit the tombs in a steady stream, mostly in small groups. Weeping, Ani Crucea, aged 36, a hairdresser, said: "We were happy during the revolution but we didn't realise things could get worse." Her friend, a teacher, said: "They were shot like dogs. May they rest in peace." She added: "He often came to visit our school. He loved

many less flowers than the tomb of her husband, Mihaela Ionita, aged 24, a law student who was at the grave, said she owed her life to Ceausescu's ban on abortion in 1966. "My mother always told me that it was thanks to him that I'm here today and that when he died I should pay him my respects. I live nearby so I

come every week."

But none of these visitors said that they had been happy under the dictatorship of the Ceausescu couple and no one said they had been against the revolution that toppled him.

"But," said George Birhoata, aged 44, a warehouse clerk, "at least tomorrow was assured, everyone had a loaf of bread."

His wife, Angelica, aged 40, who works in a bakery, said: "At least he was better than the present gang." Asked whether it had been a misconception that Ceausescu was one of the most ruthless dictators in modern Europe, Mr Birhoata said: "Romania is a backward country. Without a little discipline nothing could be done."

In these harsh economic times the most common comment was that "at least things were cheap" under Ceausescu. Only one woman disagreed. She was Jeaneta, aged 41, a clerk who said that she did not believe that the Ceausescus were buried here.

She said: "This makes me sick. He deserves nothing. What about the hunger and the cold? He's not worth this respect."

At the gates of the cemetery, a flower seller said: "I just sold 20 roses thanks to him."

Italy votes to end poll corruption

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

ITALIANS voted in a referendum at the weekend for a change in electoral laws to reduce Mafia influence in elections and the chance of corrupt scrutineering.

The vote is taken as criticism of the political establishment and could open the way for more radical reforms. In years to come, this referendum could well be remembered as the first step towards a new constitution.

The need for change has been obvious to most Italians for years, but a succession of weak coalition governments, with an average lifespan of under a year, have so far failed to reform a system of which they were a product. Paradoxically, political power has rested firmly in the same few hands since 1945.

A system of proportional representation, which does not lay down a minimum vote for entering parliament, has resulted in a proliferation of parties, with all of them needing partners in order to govern and all the partners demanding a slice of the power and patronage and a direct say in government policy. Optimists hope that the success of the referendum will spur the establishment towards revision of the system.

Albanian party balks at reform

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN TIRANA

THE Albanian Communist party opened its congress here yesterday with a vigorous attack on the country's late Stalinist dictator, Enver Hoxha.

In his opening address, Xhelil Gjoni, a member of the central committee secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour, accused Hoxha of "grave errors and excesses" and condemned the personality cult that had surrounded "the father of the nation" until his death in 1985. Speaking under a poster with the slogan "Renovation, social justice and progress", Mr Gjoni told the 1,400 delegates that the time had come to distance the party from the past and to embrace "genuine concepts of democracy". However, he did not appear to succeed in persuading all the delegates that the time was ripe for reforms.

Evidence of resistance to reforms and of a split in the party became clear when Mr Gjoni suddenly qualified his strictures of the late dictator and spoke of "some undeniable merits of Hoxha". This led to a standing ovation from some delegates, with a few hundred chanting "the party is Enver's party".

The delegates' reaction and the plaster bas-relief of Hoxha at the back of the congress hall would appear to suggest that the reformers have a long way to go to persuade grass roots members of the virtues of the

party's new way in spite of Mr Gjoni's criticism of the old regime.

"The beast", commented Sali Berisha, leader of the opposition Democratic party, "now has two heads". In a conciliatory gesture towards the main opposition parties, Mr Gjoni spoke of his hope that the "united multi-party government of experts" will defuse political antagonisms in the country.

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What's addictive, traditional and highly polished? A British man's shoes. Dinah Hall finds out who is feeding the habit

A walk on the classic side

Men, in case you had not noticed, are funny about their shoes. The country gent treats his brown brogues rather like his Labrador: works them hard, pampers them and buys exactly the same sort when they die. The City gent is not so different, except that his are black and he might ring the changes occasionally with a pair of Oxfords. The bottom of their husband's wardrobe remains a mystery to most women: is it to compensate for the dullness of the style that men spend so many hours maniacally polishing their shoes?

To confront Oliver Sweeney, the shoe designer, with such a suggestion is rather like taunting the Pope with a spot of blasphemy. "Men's shoes all the same?" he repeats incredulously, fixing you with a leathery stare, and then opening a large walnut box. At first glance it confirms all your worst suspicions about men's shoe-cleaning habits relating to strict toilet training in infancy: a pair of brown leather brogues with thick rubber soles, fixed firmly in position by leather straps. There are also three tins of French beeswax polish and six brushes. "It's for the serious shoe fetishist."



Stitches in time: a craftsman fitting a brogue to the last at the Church's factory in Northampton

Mr Sweeney says, explaining the functions of the various brushes, including a toothbrushy version for applying sole preserver along the welts. But if this is perversion, it is dangerously seductive: by the time Mr Sweeney has finished analysing his love of shoes, it is hard not to be convinced.

To start with, his shoes are exquisite — a "walk of art", as the title of his new range puts it. They are crafted mostly by hand in Northampton from lasts that he makes himself, heavy and tactile yet supremely elegant. This is the result of what he calls the London bespoke or "old money" look, which he says has always fascinated him. (He puts his obsession with shoes down to a poverty-stricken childhood spent looking at the ground for dropped money.)

"Most brogues have a countryish, slightly bulbous look to them," he says. "If the arches are held tightly, it makes the feet look long and narrow, instantly elegant." They gleam rather than shine: the leather is "hand-an-tiqued". Most shoes "look dead because they are given that synthetic finish — no love goes into them".

Brown shoes, he adds, should be brushed once a month with black polish to give a slightly aged look. For a really brilliant shine, fantasists note, apply the wax the night before and polish in the morning. (These little details will fascinate

'For the British, the notion lingers that a chap who wears brown brogues with grey slacks and navy blazer is a bit of a cad'

the average British man, who represents a nation of car and shoe polishers. Doing research for its own products, Reckitt & Colman discovered that men take their shoe-polishing rituals seriously. Many, for instance, do not like wives to use their brushes.)

Mr Sweeney himself admits to being a bit of a sloth, although one up from the trouser-rub school of cleaning when it comes to following his own advice. But that does not reflect on his feelings for shoes. "Even after 18 years in the shoe business I can sit and admire a shoe for ten minutes," he says. "It's the structure, the line, all the work that goes into them — about



ALASTAIR LINDLAW

120 different processes in one of my shoes. And then there is that lovely little 'putt' as the heel sinks into the shoe when you have a perfect fit... go on, smell the leather."

Peter Cowling of Pace, a shoe design and marketing consultancy, shares this admiration. "Just think of the size of the design problem. You've got a pair of feet which are never identical; there are 26 bones in each, covered by hardly any flesh, and each gives out half a cup of sweat a day. You've got to let that out, and at the same time not let any wet in."

Mr Cowling's partner, Richard

Smith, has just designed a range of shoes for Tricker's, the oldest shoemaking company in the country. They have called them "neo-classics", reflecting Mr Smith's desire to create shoes that inspire the feeling of sorting through your great-grandfather's personal effects and finding a pair of beautifully made, shiny shoes.

But much as men may love their shoes, they do not enjoy shopping for them. Shoes fall into the category of "stress purchase", according to Mr Cowling. So undoubtedly Shipton & Henegge, a small company that sells Jermyn Street quality shoes at discount prices by hawking them round

London and Edinburgh offices, is on to a good thing. Alastair Baxter, one of its directors, says there is no real difference between the type of shoe bought by the trendy advertising executive and the staid stockbroker. But that is one of the curious things about men's shoes: the more fashionable the man, the more traditional his shoe is likely to be.

"Five years ago the shoe in-

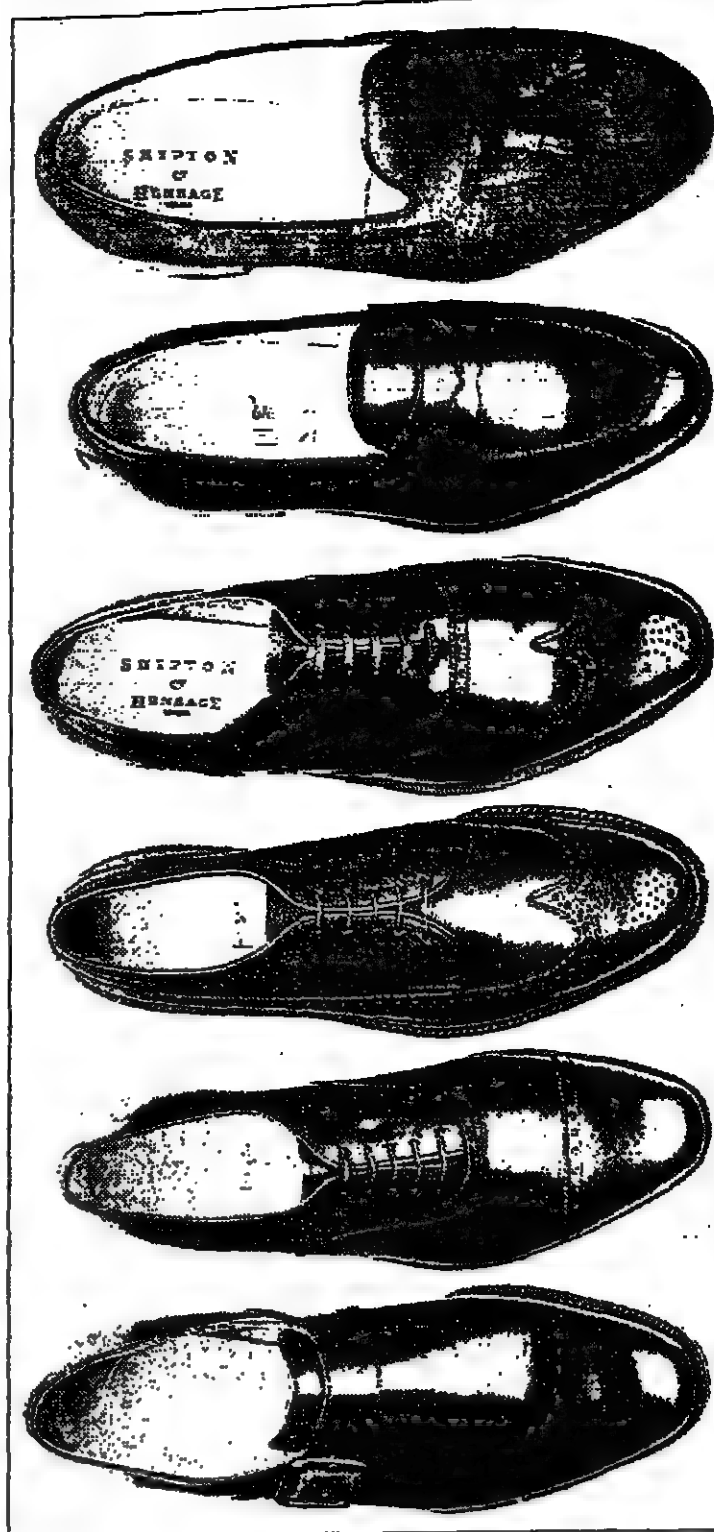
dustry was anxiously trying to forecast when the boom in classic shoes was likely to end," says Anthony Gledhill, the marketing director of Church's, "but now we've stopped talking about it." Northampton-based Church's is world famous for the classic, well-made British shoe, and a status-symbol label among well-heeled French and Japanese.

Views on what makes a gentle-

man, however, differ from country to country. The French and Italians buy mostly brown brogues, whereas for the British the notion lingers "that a chap who wears brown brogues with grey slacks and navy blazer is a bit of a cad", according to Mr Gledhill. Britain, the United States and Japan buy mostly black.

As for the grey shoe, Messrs Gledhill ("Ah yes, grey shoes, gold bracelet, handbag and Porsche"), Cowling ("Never trust a man with grey shoes") and Sweeney ("Ugh, grey piped moccasins") regard it as the pit bull terrier of the industry: in need of emergency legislation to ban it.

Views on what makes a gentle-



Little wheel turns full circle

The small-wheeled bicycle's inventor is pushing a new stainless steel range

Tomorrow, the latest in a range of bicycles bearing the name that has become synonymous with the small wheel is launched: the Alex Moulton Stainless Steel GT. First produced in 1962, Moultons were made at the rate of 1,000 a week in their heyday in the mid-Sixties, before the marque was overwhelmed by (usually inferior) small-wheeled imitations from the established bicycle manufacturers.

The inventor of the small-wheel concept was Dr Alex Moulton, whose family owned a company that had made industrial rubber products since the 19th century. During the Suez crisis in 1956 petrol was scarce and Dr Moulton, like many others, bought a bicycle. The conventional bicycle has often been described as the perfect design solution, a superbly efficient means of maximising the potential of human power. Dr Moulton thought the bicycle wonderful — and immediately set about trying to improve it.

Simultaneously, he was designing an innovative suspension system for the Mini car, which was launched in 1959. The conventional bicycle can rely on its large wheels to absorb at least some of the shock of uneven roads. It is tempting to suppose that, having designed the suspension for one revolutionary, small-wheeled vehicle, Dr Moulton invented another revolutionary, small-wheeled vehicle in order to justify designing another suspension system. He has always indignantly denied this. "It is not a gimmick," he says. Suspended small wheels, he believes, are simply superior: they offer the rider less rolling resistance, a lower centre of gravity and better roadholding. He has always had to contend with people's prejudice: for some reason serious cyclists seem to think small wheels look funny. Dr Moulton has had 30 years to rehearse his arguments against this perception.

"If you see a modern car standing alongside a vintage car, you don't say how small the wheels look," he says. "You don't say, 'I wouldn't like to travel on an InterCity 125 because it doesn't have 8ft driving wheels'."

The best possible argument for the Moulton and its small wheels, however, is to ride one. I borrowed one from Swift Cycles in Forest Hill, the only Moulton dealer in London. The riding position is, of course, the conventional one — and at first the bicycle feels no different from any other racer. Then you aim it at a pothole and find yourself gliding, instead of juddering, across. Nor was I aware of anyone jeering at me.

'If you see a modern car you don't say how small the wheels look'

The second-generation Moultons, which appeared in 1983, are produced by a team of six people in the converted stable block of Dr Moulton's Jacobean manor house in Bradford-on-Avon. Dr Moulton is touchy about revealing how many they produce a year, but admits that it is fewer than a thousand. He expects to sell only "a few hundred" of the new Stainless Steel GTs each year.

In pursuit of rigidity and lightness, today's Moultons have forsaken a frame based on a single, fat central tube in favour of a complex, but visually satisfying, web of zig-zag rods and diagonal braces. The result is high-technology structural engineering on two wheels, and it comes as no surprise to learn that Richard Rogers, architect of the Lloyd's building, owns one. The cheapest bicycle in the range costs £915 and the Stainless Steel GT will retail at £2,500.

The new bicycle is basically the refinement of Dr Moulton's small-wheel thoughts to date: "me talking to myself", he calls it. The main difference lies in the use of aerospace-developed stainless steel for the frame. This has the obvious advantages of being corrosion-proof, and of being



Smooth ride: Dr Alex Moulton with his Stainless Steel GT

obtainable to extremely precise specifications. But for some, these advantages will perhaps be outweighed by the associated visual bonus. In the sun, the new bicycle is a dazzling, glinting thing. "I wanted to make a statement of the 'metalness' of it," Dr Moulton explains. This is a statement of faith, too. Bicycles have always been made of steel, a material that Dr Moulton believes will never be surpassed by the carbon fibres currently being tested by other manufacturers. In recent years, the greatest innovation in cycling has been

the introduction of the mountain bike (the Moulton range includes one). Now, in America, mountain bikes are being produced with suspension, and suddenly the cycling magazines are full of them. Many of the American suspension designers have credited Dr Moulton as their inspiration. At the age of 71, Dr Moulton confides that he is once again talking to a large bicycle manufacturer about granting a licence to produce one of his designs. "Maybe my time has come again," he says.

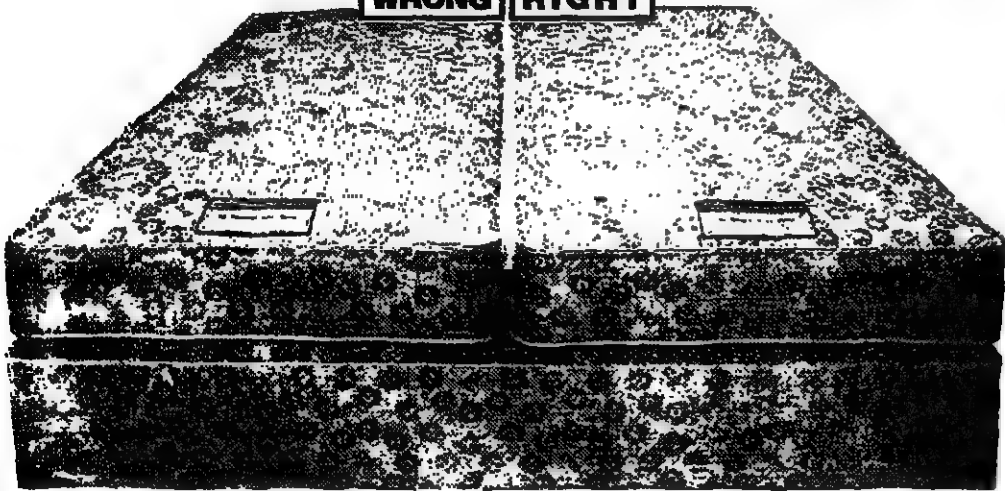
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BRIEFING

Big trio for Ben

WHEN English National Ballet announces a sponsorship deal with Norwich Union on Thursday for a new production of *The Nutcracker*, it will complete a hat-trick of forthcoming premieres for its choreographer Ben Stevenson. ENB will perform Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* as well as a revival of his *Cinderella*, while London City Ballet is busy preparing Stevenson's *Romeo and Juliet* for an autumn tour of Britain.

No Good?

TIMBERLAKE Wertenbaker's play *Our Country's Good* has become Broadway's latest casualty. It closed at the weekend after a six-week run. The production failed despite excellent reviews; producers are blaming the play's failure to win any of the six Tony Awards for which it was nominated.

Festive Scots

GLASGOW'S Tron Theatre Company has been invited to stage its Mayfest production of *The Real World* at the Stony Brook International Theatre Festival, Long Island, later this month. Although the play is the work of French-Canadian dramatist Michel Tremblay, it has been translated into broad Scots and is performed by an all-Scottish cast.

Last chance...

JANACEK's foky lady finally disappears from view at the Coliseum (071-836 3161) on Thursday when the curtain falls on English National Opera's revival of *The Cunning Little Vixen*. This fable of the turning seasons, of man's relationship to the natural world, of death and rebirth, is shorter and more fun than another aspect of the same theme being played out in Covent Garden's *Gawain* up the road.



Detail from *View over the Gardens from East Bergholt House* (1814): a supreme example of Constable's exquisite feeling for design and line

Enchantment in the vales

John Russell Taylor welcomes the comprehensive Constable show opening tomorrow at the Tate

Great artists stay just where they are, but the angle from which they are viewed changes. That is what eventually catches art forgers out and readers pointless the excited enquiries as to whether the Tate Gallery's comprehensive new Constable show does in fact come up with a "new Constable". Whatever the intentions, the Constable seen in the Nineties will inevitably be significantly different from the Constable seen at the Tate's last showing of him in 1976.

The 1976 show achieved some notoriety — perhaps appropriate to its era — for taking a strongly political line on Constable. It sometimes seemed, indeed, that the organisers were about to adopt the full John Barrell attitude, finding fault principally because his treatment of rural workers and their plight inexplicably failed to show a detailed acquaintance with the writings of Karl Marx.

Today this faint aura of disapproval has been banished. If anything, we are invited rather to see Constable as a caring man, concerned for the environment and conservative only in wanting to preserve continuity with nature and the good things of the past. Moreover, since it is now all right to be religious again, we are reminded

that Constable was devout, and obsessive with it. That is why he kept reverting to the scenes of his childhood, and painting the same few scenes over and over again from slightly different angles. This is arguably more respectable than Monet's series painting, in that it was done because Constable could not help it. Rather than in obedience to some cerebral artistic programme.

At least this show finally puts the emphasis back where it should be, on Constable the artist. It concentrates entirely on the landscapes, and on the evolution of specific images. Virtually all through his career, Constable had an understandable desire to be accepted as a great artist, or at least one who was on a par with the contemporary artistic establishment. To do this, he painted a series of very large, ambitious oil paintings, on the lines of his Royal Academy diploma piece *Dedham Lock*. These include most of his most famous images, such as *The Hay Wain*, *Stamford Mill* and *The Cornfield*, and all of them are here, sometimes in multiple versions.

They are famous, but I find them difficult to love. The paint tends to be tortured into place, as though Constable is deliberately showing evidence of man-hours put in. The prevailing tonality is usually dark, and there is often a feeling that he is pulling himself up by his bootstraps to meet expectations of greatness. But fortunately, in this show every one of the great machines is surrounded by studies and smaller alternative versions which generally ring truer. Better, after all, to write great sonnets than indifferent epics.

On this level the show is enchanting as well as enlightening. The early landscapes, such as the first Dedham Vale series, have an almost mid 18th century crispness, like something glimpsed in the background of one of Gainsborough's early paintings. This delightful and decorous manner persists alongside paintings, sometimes of identical subjects, which daringly anticipate Impressionism. Clearly Constable was more con-

sciously experimental in style than is generally thought.

A preference for the more sketchy works over the grand designs is probably an aspect of ingrained English Romanticism. But in Constable's case these do seem to have been the works into which he put his genius. The superb sky and cloud studies are outstanding among the small oils, combining scientific accuracy with exquisite feeling for design and colour. He is also, for a countryman, superb at sea-scenes, from the tiny *Seascope Study with Rain Clouds* to the much more finished variations on the big picture unexpectedly labelled *La baie de Weymouth*.

Of course, a French title should not be unexpected. After all, successive generations of French artists knew and venerated Constable. It is this international linkage which sows doubts about the call for a Constable Museum to gather his works together. To see a lot together every so often, as in 1976 and 1991, is wonderful. But Constable's genius is too big to be confined to its own ghetto.

Constable, Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 7128). 10am-5.30pm. Sun 2-5.30pm, until September 15. Sponsored by Barclays Bank.

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

First thoughts dazzle anew

Sibelius: Violin Concerto, Op 47 (original and final versions). Kavakos/Lahti SO/Vanska. BIS CD-500.
Hindemith: *Mathis der Maler*/Konzertmusik, Op 50/Symphonische Metamorphosen, Israel PO/Bernstein. Deutsche Grammophon 429 404-2.
Elgar: Symphony No 1/in the South. LPO/Slatkin. RCA RD60360

Brass, Op 50, composed for Boston in 1930 and given here with the perfect combination of warmth and sharpness. Meanwhile, in the *Symphonische Metamorphosen on Themes of Carl Maria von Weber* (1943), Bernstein affirms the marvellously showy side of a composer apparently untroubled for the moment by darker things.

THE names featured on the BIS disc do not exactly have a familiar ring about them, but that should dissuade nobody. For one thing, the violin playing of Leonidas Kavakos, the Greek-born winner of the 1985 Sibelius Violin Competition, is marvellously rich in tone and assured in its direction. For another, the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vanska, can hold a candle to the best of them in terms of warmth and technical security.

And for yet another, with the enterprise typical of this label, the disc presents the first version of Sibelius's Violin Concerto alongside the final one. This earlier manifestation, dating from 1903-4, turns out to be a more full-blown romantic work than its disciplined successor, which by comparison seems obtuse, even curt. Its transitions, for instance, are clipped almost out of existence. But comparison is inappropriate, for these are not simply different versions of the same piece but two completely different aesthetic outlooks.

After his recently issued disc of Debussy with the distinctly patchy Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the late Leonard Bernstein can be heard in more typical form with the Israel Philharmonic on a disc, recorded live in April 1989, of three works by Hindemith. This composer leaves little room for Bernstein's sometimes over-lavish expression, and wisely he does not attempt to impose an inappropriate malleability.

Besides the impressively delivered symphony *Mathis der Maler*, which is essentially about Hindemith's own struggles in dangerous times (the work was completed in 1934), there is the equally eloquent *Konzertmusik for Strings* and

The praises of non-British performers of Elgar's music have been sung with increasing frequency during the past decade, and the American conductor Leonard Slatkin's accounts of Elgar's First Symphony and the overture *In the South* with the London Philharmonic must rate highly.



Thorough: Leonard Slatkin

Slatkin here seems consciously to avoid indulgence in favour of an evident thoroughness in preparation and the precise placement of gesture. Yet, as such instances as the wonderfully judged moment of transition from the symphony's second to third movements prove, there is certainly no neglect of feeling for particular moments; nor, for that matter, a lack of more general emotional involvement.

Instead, his intelligent thinking through of each phrase helps the music almost to interpret itself — or at least, that is the illusion. The recording sounds commendably natural but rich, with no undue emphasis placed upon over-brilliant brass or unrealistically lush strings. Brilliance and lushness there are plenty of, in any case, in every department.

STEPHEN PETTITT

RADIO

Never stumped meteorologically

WITH play so frequently interrupting rain, *Test Match Special* (Radio 3, Sunday) struggled to find its form. A period of gloomy precipitation would be coming along nicely when, to the audience's collective dismay, dry daylight would supervene, followed in short order by a pitch inspection and a resumption of cricket. After many summers of sun, the programme had been on the point of sliding back into its classic mould of water-treading apocrypha, useless statistics and the ceremonial sampling of sweetsmeared by fans or perhaps would-be poisoners.

This column's annual tribute to Fred Trueman, the most prodigious windbag on network radio, can only gain in piquancy from the recent nuptials of his daughter and Raquel Welch's son. One's attention was fixed chiefly on the question of whether Trueman's fellow sages would dare allude to the happy event. The West Indian commentator Tony Cozier spent the whole day calling the fast bowler Courtney Walsh "Walch", which may have been a straw in the breeze. And why are the Caribbean quicks so tall? "They must've fallen asleep in a greenhouse." With their feet in a grow bag. "On which subject he then bowed a conversational long hop about his wallflowers having been blighted by unreasonable frost. Cozier pounced. "I didn't know you still had wallflowers at home, Fred?"

MARTIN CROPPER

PREVIEWS FROM TOMORROW
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ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

Pairing purity with punch

Paul Griffiths reviews an opening weekend of theatrical performances with strong Suffolk connections



Full-blooded performance: Gwion Thomas as Punch

Great performances need no other justification, but as it happens both the extraordinary theatrical evenings at the start of this year's Aldeburgh Festival had strong Suffolk connections. One, sponsored by Sanyo, brought over the Noh-play *Sumidagawa*, which Britten saw in Japan in 1956, and on which eight years later he based his first church parable, *Curlew River*. The other, sponsored by the Chapman Trust, was a revival — and indeed a reinvigoration — of another piece first performed at Aldeburgh in the 1960s: Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy*.

I suppose one goes to a Noh-play thinking one knows what is going to happen. There will be no decor. The words will come in a kind of slow, stifled chant and will, of course, be incomprehensible. The action will be slow too, and formal, and the principal actor will be masked, to freeze out any means of expression other than those of pose and gesture. There will be elegant costumes and minimal props. There will be music, but only sumo-musical and punctuated from flute and drums, and more chanting from a small chorus. One's admiration will be, like the thing itself, dispassionate.

All these expectations were right except, for me, the last, which therefore made all the others wrong, because when one's attention is so fiercely drawn by a performance, what one sees is not a whole lot of absences — of scenery, of understanding, of facial expression, of variety of pace — but completeness: the completeness of purity, certainly, but also the intense completeness of something that achieves such pressure at a needle's point.

There is no pretence in this theatre that what one is viewing is a consistent imaginary universe: assistants can walk over to hand a prop, refasten a loose hat string or adjust the hemline of a costume. In this way the imperfections of our world and time are not disguised but allowed for, while, like a liturgy, the performance

addresses another level of experience, where it is possible to sit forever in contemplation of the Madwoman's stance at her first entry, with just the droop of a willow wand to signal slicing immensities of grief, or where her single chime on a little bell at her son's tomb conveys everything music can say.

After this towering performance, with Yasutaka Izumi as the Madwoman, Britten's

interpretation seemed sad and sentimental. Again the production was Japanese, by the Tatsuji Hayashi Company, and Tatsunosuke Yamada scored a double triumph by appearing as the spirit boy in both pieces, allowing us a second chance to see the unearthly Busby of a wig that almost covered his face without getting in the way of his vocal piping. But it was only at this climactic moment that the Britten drew onto a level of Noh-like tight abundance.

Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy* was a rather lustier matter. The composer has made no secret of his dissatisfaction with both the principal productions: the piece has had so far in this country, here he was scheduled to offer his own view,

though in the event, rather inevitably, *Gawain* kept him occupied in London, and responsibility for this *Punch* is credited to him and Graham Devlin as joint directors. Quite how the tasks were shared one does not know, but certainly the result is nothing like his specifications of a few years ago, when he described what he wanted as "a very controlled physical world, rather like Japanese theatre: not mimicking that, but with a real vocabulary of movement, and mask work. Totally artificial. And very formal."

No, there was nothing Japanese here. Maybe Birtwistle's ideas have changed, or maybe his conception could not be made to work, but this production was something much more akin to the David Freeman version: savage and raunchy, if violently controlled, and set in a junked fairground with scarlet, black and iron grey the predominant colours. And, like the Freeman production, it decisively worked, answering the rude energy, the hunchedbacked stumbling gait, the aggression, the keening and the mad-child nursery-rhyme distortions of the music.

Whatever else, the composer's presence perhaps encouraged everybody to work at full stretch. Nicholas Cleobury conducted an outstanding ensemble performance, bringing out all the soft, secret beauties in the score as well as the ferocity (but was it Birtwistle's curious idea to have a debased version of the score played simultaneously on stage by three characters in the Nightmare sequence?).

On stage the robust vitality was centred in a lewd, leering, full-blooded performance by Gwion Thomas as a Punch in bunched costume, with Nicholas Sears — magnificent, suave and authoritative in the more lyrical music of the Chores — his alter ego and the master of his appalling ceremonies. There was excellent work, too, from Angela Tunstall in the coloratura role of Pretty Polly (ancestress of Morgan in *Gawain* as well as of the oracle in *Orpheus*) and from Rachel Halliwell as Judy. This is a production that must not be allowed to die after its repeat performance on Thursday.

ARTS REVIEWS, page 17
Lynne Truss on television; and London theatre

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Redressing the classic balance

Richard Morrison

The Cockney lad of classical music is under fire again. For choosing to play Brahms and Berg while dressed as if about to audition for *The Rocky Horror Show*, Nigel Kennedy has been attacked by John Drummond, controller of BBC Radio 3. "That kind of vulgarity is quite unnecessary," sniffed Drummond, with the air of a headmaster admonishing a third-former for drawing dirty cartoons in a school textbook.

Of course, Drummond, approaching retirement and devoted to maintaining broadcasting's most exclusive "culture club", is unlikely to be sympathetic to a violinist who is marketed like a rock star. Kennedy's sharp-suited managers will undoubtedly think his broadside shows their boy is on the right lines.

But Kennedy has also been attacked by Simon Rattle, a musician of his own generation who might be expected to sympathise with Kennedy's popularising aims, if not with his "wotcha, killer" repartee. Rattle says he is "very concerned for Nigel", and delivers the odd statement: "You just can't do *The Four Seasons* like that."

Why do such eminent musical figures throw mud at Kennedy, especially if the "Nige" phenomenon is as ephemeral as they predict? Kennedy has sold a vast number of recordings, so is jealousy involved? Or is it distaste that a classical musician has used pop marketing gimmicks? Or fear, that their own influence is being undermined? Or perhaps a sense of betrayal, that a musician trained (in Kennedy's case, almost from the cradle) to play in tails at the Festival Hall should choose a different path?

The answer is perhaps more subtle. Kennedy is not the first musician to be ostracised by the musical establishment for courting popularity too overtly. Leopold Stokowski — he of the celebrated handshake with Mickey Mouse in *Fantasia* — was deeply distrusted, even though *Fantasia* introduced a whole generation to the popular classics.

Fifteen years ago, the musician they loved to hate was James Galway, "the man with the golden flute". Like Kennedy, he too was a fine instrumentalist who, his detractors said, sold his soul for quick riches. Even musicians as distinguished as Leonard Bernstein and Vladimir Horowitz went through periods when they were written off as "showmen": that most damning of classical-music epithets. In all these cases, a spurious connection was made between popularity and declining musical worth. The same innuendoes are now trotted out against Kennedy.

Here is a classic conflict, endlessly recycled: a battle between the popularisers and the cognoscenti; those who want to broaden, against the already-initiated who fear that breadth implies shallowness. And mingled with that are more shadowy prejudices. From one side comes the assumption that all popularisers are motivated by money. That offends against the notion, still prevailing in the musical world, that real artists starve — or at least run up large overdrafts — for their art. On the other side the popularisers suspect that the cognoscenti do not want too many plebs to share their pleasure.

Why, though, after centuries of mutual acrimony, do the two sides not recognise their mutual dependence? The classical-music world desperately needs its Kennedys: heaven knows, his record sales are practically keeping EMI Classics afloat. And the sharp-suited managers do still need to feed off the whole classical infrastructure: the music colleges, the orchestras, even Radio 3. Drummond and Kennedy should shake hands and agree to differ on points of style; they would find, after a few minutes' talk, that they are actually on the same side.

How long can Tokyo look inwards and ignore the resentment of its trading partners, asks Joanna Pitman

Japan's inferiority complex

Japan Inc, the name by which the nation's cohesive and internationally successful economic machine is known abroad, is in dire need of a public relations department. The Japanese may be rightly proud of their superlative economy — they boast the world's highest GNP per capita, highest hourly wage levels and lowest unemployment rate — but their introverted political system is beginning to let them down on the international stage.

Factional rivalries within Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party have always inhibited the decision-making capacities of its prime ministers. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has never been able to make a significant political decision without first canvassing sufficient backing to allow him to follow it through. The resultant lack of a coherent foreign policy means the nation has no proper response in the rapidly escalating verbal war with its trading partners.

Since they set Japan on the path of economic expansion after the war, the bureaucratic architects of Japan Inc in the finance and the international trade and industry ministries have specifically aimed to keep power out of the hands of politicians. They have kept politicians occupied with such domestic issues as raising the billions of pounds required for election campaigns

and maintaining crucial networks of relationships. When not gathering or dispensing vote-winning wads of cash, Japanese politicians can be found attending weddings and funerals (three or four a week on average), a traditional forum for creating business links, which matter more than policy when it comes to elections. They rarely travel abroad, speak a foreign language or have international views.

Unwilling to tamper with the greater Japan Inc's designs on world economic markets, Japanese politicians have kept their heads down and followed America's lead in foreign affairs.

But now foreign trade negotiators, who have spent more than a decade trying to lever open Japanese markets, are growing furious. Threats rain down daily on Tokyo, not only from America, but increasingly from European Community officials and politicians such as France's Edith Cresson, who has declared Japan to be an enemy of the French people. Japan-bashing may be 10 years old, but it is suddenly intensifying. Worse for Japan, trade-related taunts are now only one



Traditional values: domestic matters preoccupy the country

part of the barrage. The nation is also being vilified for its limp international role. Nearly a third of respondents to a March poll conducted for *The Washington Post* said that their respect for Japan had dimmed during the Gulf war. Japan had contributed US \$13 billion (£7.4 billion) to the allied war effort — consid-

erably more than Germany — yet it fared worse in the poll. In April, Gallup found that more than 60 per cent of Americans believe the Japanese economic machine is a greater threat to their national security than the Soviet military.

More immediately worrying for the Japanese is the growing

realisation that in some nations which are important trading partners, Japan-bashing wins votes. The Japanese see it as no coincidence that Mme Cresson, who has vowed to protect France's domestic industries from obliteration by the Japanese, has been made prime minister. And dozens of American senators are clearly playing for grass-roots support when they propose sanctions against the Japanese. More than 30 anti-Japan bills were tabled by American senators in January alone, and some Japanese fear that the Democrats will fight the 1992 presidential election on an anti-Japan platform.

In the face of this, and George Friedman and Meredith LeBarde's book *The Coming War with Japan*, which is well on its way to topping the *Asahi Shimbun* best-seller list, the Japanese are trying to portray themselves as defenceless victims — the traditional response of the Japanese when under fire. They simply start repeating clichés: Japan, they say, is a small island nation, prone to catastrophic earthquakes, lacking in natural resources, suffering from a bur-

geoning aging population and a younger generation that is getting lazy. But as Japan's trade surpluses grow, the international community is losing patience with such claims of vulnerability.

At the same time, several sober-minded members of the Japanese establishment have begun to make *ad hoc* responses to threats from abroad. The finance ministry's top mandarin, Makoto Utsumi, for example, has bluntly warned American senators considering sanctions against Japan, that Tokyo would retaliate by withdrawing its credit from the United States, creating a "very, very harmful" situation.

Also energetically raising the stakes in the US-Japan war of words is Shintaro Ishihara, an unusually outspoken ruling party politician, who has just published *The Japan That Can Definitely Say No!*, the third in a series of books which effectively raise two fingers at Capitol Hill, and which have struck a chord at home.

Japan is slowly realising that it risks becoming an international pariah if it does not produce some diplomats and politicians to put its case internationally. As long as Japan relies on the old protest that it is being victimised, it will continue to stifle meaningful political dialogue. If such a powerful nation cannot make good use of its power, it may become a danger to itself.

The power of the star surgeons

Specialists complaining at changes in the NHS threaten what they wish to protect, writes Dr James Le Fanu

Had Rolfe Birch left his post as senior orthopaedic consultant at London's St Mary's Hospital a year or two ago, his departure would have merited a short item in the hospital gazette, thanking him for his valuable contributions over the years and wishing him luck in his new post at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. Instead, his career move — announced this weekend — made the front page of several Sunday papers, where it was presented as symptomatic of the despair felt by many senior consultants over the NHS reforms, and in particular the bureaucracy now required when referring patients for specialist opinion.

Whether this is the explanation of Mr Birch's move is not at all clear. Theoretically, at least, the NHS reforms should not have caused him to leave. Mr Birch is one of the elite class of consultants, which includes Magdi Yacoub and Professor Roy Carne, who by virtue of their unique experience and immense skill, are the best authorities in the country on highly specialised medical problems. Their enormous power and prestige makes their co-operation vital if the NHS reforms are to succeed.

Mr Birch's forte is the "brachial

plexus", a bundle in the neck where millions of nerve fibres emerging from the cervical spine are reorganised before passing down into the arm. It is staggeringly complex.

So, when someone in, say, Inverness, falls off his motorcycle and tears his brachial plexus, the local orthopaedic surgeon is likely to tell him: "Sorry, old chap, this is much too difficult for me. You need to see my old friend, Rolfe Birch at St Mary's — the top man in Europe on brachial plexus injuries. He will sort you out."

The NHS reforms should not change any of this. The only difference is that whereas in the past the cost of looking after the injured motorcyclist would be borne by St Mary's, the health authority in Inverness will now foot the bill. This new arrangement solves a longstanding problem for the teaching hospitals, which were in effect financially penalised for employing super-specialists like Mr Birch, whose patients were referred from all over the country.

At this level, nothing much seems to have changed. Indeed this new procedure where "money follows the patient" is long overdue. But this does not mean William Waldegrave can dismiss the publicity over Mr Birch's move as yet another example of



Knife work: the top specialists will determine whether Waldegrave can successfully cut bureaucracy

the Labour party's hyperbolic hostility to the reforms. Rather, it should be seen as the first spits of rain from some ominously looming storm clouds.

St Mary's outstanding architectural feature is a large spiral staircase at the centre of the hospital which stretches from the ground floor to the roof. From this one can stand and watch the busy life of the hospital, including the stately procession of distinguished consultants making their rounds followed by the retinue of white-coated junior doctors. No-

thing, one feels, should threaten such a splendid institution where the finest of humanist traditions are fused with the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

But the future of St Mary's, along with all the other London teaching hospitals, is profoundly threatened by the reforms. Star departments such as orthopaedics spend most of their time grappling with mundane cases such as difficult fractures, joint replacements, and so on. Now much of this bread-and-butter work could be done just as well

and more cheaply in non-teaching hospitals outside London, and under the reforms that is what will happen.

The surgeons could try to develop further their super-specialist skills, but here they come up against the dilemma that there are 11 other teaching hospitals in London in the same predicament. The sensible thing would be to take what is excellent from St Mary's from University College Hospital and from the Middlesex and to transplant them to form one huge teaching

hospital based, for example, at the Royal Free, Middlesex and UCH would close, and St Mary's would become an ordinary general hospital. Similar mergers across London would reduce the 12 teaching hospitals to the more appropriate number of four, the best of each would be preserved, ordinary medical and surgical cases would be dealt with appropriately and cheaply in non-teaching hospitals, and a lot of money would be saved.

In private, almost all consultants at London teaching hospitals agree this is what should happen. But they remain loyal to their own institutions: it is always some other hospital that must close or change its status.

The political consequences of a decision to close several teaching hospitals would be catastrophic. Mr Waldegrave's response at the Department of Health is to hide behind the impersonal laws of the internal market in health, which should ultimately rationalise health care in the capital.

In the meantime, St Mary's and all the other teaching hospitals are slowly disintegrating. In the absence of funds from treating basic medical cases whole departments — and eventually some hospitals — will have to close.

Aghast at this prospect, some of the super-specialists, such as Mr Birch, will be able to move to hospitals which do not need to rely on everyday surgery and which have a rather better status within the NHS reforms than the London teaching hospitals. But for others the future is grim.

The finger of accusation could easily be pointed at the London consultants. As far back as 1968 they were told by a royal commission the level of expensive teaching hospital facilities in London could not be maintained. But by a masterful combination of subterfuge, shroud-waving and special pleading they have resisted the rationalisation. They have been the privileged cuckoos in the NHS nest. Now they alone have the skill to perform the vital curative surgery on London's teaching hospitals, if their great historical legacy is not to be damaged irreparably.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I was always one of those boys who preferred *Bunty* to *Victor*, and the *Four Marys* to *Morgan the Mighty*. Boys' comic strips were set, more often than not, in the middle of jungles in the second world war, with a procession of plucky valentines ("blimey, sarge, I thought I was a gonner"), surprised Germans ("Gott im Himmel! Arrghh!!!"), have-a-go heroes ("I can't let anyone suffer like that. Sorry, sarge, but I'm bringing that bloke in") and furious superiors ("I'll have you for this, Soames. Just see if I don't!"). For a sensitive lad it was all too exhausting.

The world of *Bunty* was free of hand grenades, crocodiles and Nazis screaming "Donner und Blitzen", but the psychological drama was every bit as intense. Girls' comics were not just feminine versions of those for boys — no Rowena of the Rovers or Maureen of the Mighty for them. Boarding schools provided the setting. The *Four Marys*, for instance, was about four schoolgirl chums, all, coincidentally, called Mary, who were pupils at St Elmo's School under the benevolent eye of Dr Gull and her spivish deputy, Miss Creff. Every story found the girls trying to save St Elmo's from imminent closure. After much activity with hidden trunks, secret messages, fancy dress and mysterious codes, St Elmo's would at last be saved and old Creff would face public humiliation.

Staying with my brother-in-law at the weekend, I was sent to pick up some girls' comics for his daughters. I am delighted to

report that *Bunty* is still going strong, and so are *The Four Marys*, now in full colour. The *Marys* — Raddy, Simpy, Cotty and Fieldy — seem rather more buxom and glamorous than once they were: 15 years in the fifth form at St Elmo's has obviously suited them well. Dr Gull is no longer around (RIP?) but her replacement, Miss Mitchell, seems just the ticket. Alas, Miss Mitchell, who looks remarkably like the young Jane Fonda, is at present in a coma at the local hospital. Meanwhile the incompetent Creff is the acting head. Creff has lost an important document and, oh no, the school faces imminent closure. The *Marys* are desperate to save it — but they haven't a hope!" remarks one sixth-former despondently, oblivious to their past record of success in this area.

Elsewhere in *Bunty*, times have moved on. While the worst fear of the *Marys* is that St Elmo's might close, other heroines must grapple with more contemporary emergencies. Of the new strips, easily my favourite is *Pop Starr*. This, too, is set in "an exclusive boarding school for girls", but the dilemma facing the heroine is breathtakingly modern: Shona Starr, a new pupil at Galthorpe, has an awful secret. She was christened Snowdrop and her father is Snowy White. "A famous pop singer of the 1970s". Poor Shona believes she will be ostracised if the news leaks out, and the strip chronicles her efforts at concealment. Shona is good at games. After winning a swimming race for

Galthorpe she is congratulated. "You were fantastic, Shona!" says one girl. Another chips in: "You know, Shona, even if your father had been a dustman, I think you'd have been accepted here." This almost prompts Shona to confess her awful secret, but she bites her tongue ("I mustn't kid myself. I know Annabel was just joking"). Then the worst happens. Shona receives a letter from her father. "Please let it be him telling me that Snowy Starr and the Snowdrops have decided not to start up again," she thinks. Instead, the letter begins: "Hi, Snowdrop! We're doing a gig at Kelmere, close to your school." He encloses six tickets, adding: "I've noted the seat numbers, and we can spotlight you all during the show."

"Oh, no!" thinks Shona. We leave Shona awake that night in her dormitory. "What can I do? How can I stop it happening?" she frets.

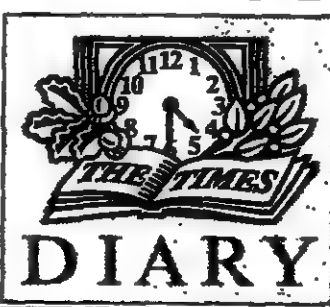
At first, I felt that few schoolgirl readers would be able to empathise with poor Shona's dilemma. Not so. With an average of five members to each in the charts every month over a period of 10 years and, say, two daughters to each member, there are, it emerges, no less than 24,000 schoolgirls whose fathers were Seventies pop stars, a sizeable percentage of our school population. Can nothing be done to allay their shame? I trust Mr Kenneth Clarke is a subscriber to *Bunty*, and that he will be announcing important new measures before the week is out.

Heavily laboured

With Labour leaders expected to move swiftly to limit the damage caused by the resignation of John Underwood, the party's communications director, an unknown compromise candidate is tipped to take over. Phil Woolas, head of communications at the GMB, one of the most influential trade unions, is emerging as the man most capable of healing the wounds.

Woolas, who was interviewed for the job last year when Peter Mandelson resigned, not only enjoys the backing of trade union members on the National Executive Committee, but also has friends high in the party hierarchy. Another key factor in his favour is his good working relationship with Colin Byrne, the party's chief press and broadcasting officer, who was at the centre of Underwood's downfall. Underwood complained that Byrne, a close friend of Mandelson, was undermining him, but failed to get the backing of Neil Kinnock when he demanded that Byrne be moved. Under Woolas there should be no such difficulties: Byrne was his press officer when Woolas presided over the National Union of Students. Unless an as yet unknown second compromise figure emerges, Woolas is the favourite.

Underwood and his wife, Sue English, foreign editor of *Channel 4*, yesterday flew to France for two weeks "to consider what to do with the rest of our lives". He has resisted lucrative newspaper offers to kiss and tell about life at Walworth Road. There is speculation, however, that ITN may offer him a consultancy role. Such an appointment would pit him against the man whose shoes he could never quite fill: Mandelson, who has been performing a similar role for the BBC.



● Friends of Claudio Arrau, the pianist who died on Sunday, yesterday recalled a warm and modest man. Joseph Cooper, who chaired BBC television's *Face the Music* and was taught by Arrau, said: "For a man who knew almost the whole piano repertoire by heart, he was strangely nervous. I was with him at the EMI studios once when he was to try the piano to see if it suited him for a recording. He adjusted the stool, stared at the keyboard and then looked helplessly at me at the other side of the studio and beckoned me over. He said: 'Joe you try the piano for me. I can't think of anything to play.'"

Re-leased?

Colonel Gaddafi appears to have little confidence in his bid to restore full diplomatic relations with Britain, for it emerged yesterday that Tripoli has leased its London embassy — or People's Bureau as the Libyans prefer to call it — until 2007.

George Said, head of the London bureau of *Jana*, Libya's news agency, said it was "unlikely" that Libya would seek to evict its tenants, the brewers Foster's, from the building in St James's Square.

has other buildings in London which could be used, but he refused to identify them. One possibility is the Libyan Arab Airlines office in Piccadilly.

Apart from such commercial outlets, the Libyan presence in London is restricted to an "interests section" at the Saudi embassy. However, the Saudis would not comment. "We are here just for Libyan students. We do not discuss other matters with you," said an undiplomatic spokesman.

Hammer horror

The calm of St James's, home to generations of gentlemen art dealers, is threatened by a row between Christie's and its neighbours. The auction house has applied for planning permission to "demolish, reconstruct and extend" buildings in Ryder Street and Duke Street, in the block behind its King Street headquarters. The proposals suggest two large showroom units, which would inevitably oust the existing small individual galleries.

Westminster council has been inundated with objections. Raymond O'Shea, president of the British Antique Dealers Association, has issued a warning to the council that by forcing out smaller dealers, the plans would contribute to "the demise of London's pre-eminence in the European art market".

The locals are also worried about the type of dealer who might move in. The director of one internationally-known St James's art gallery says: "This type of showroom tends to attract a more flamboyant trader, out of keeping with the character of the area."

Christopher Davidge, Christie's managing director, says: "People are getting wound up far too early. We have not finalised our plans." Objectors were yesterday drawing some comfort from his words, which may imply that their protests have already had some effect.

Ups and downs

What goes up must come down, at least according to Ryedale district council. The North Yorkshire authority could enter *The Guinness Book of Records* by ordering the dismantling of the Bullet, a "white-knuckle" 65 mph rollercoaster, because the builders failed to apply for planning permission. It would be the largest such structure yet to be pulled down.

The Bullet, which has been delighting and terrifying customers since February is about 100 ft high, and contains 1,500 tonnes of metal. Forty heavy wagons transported it from Munich, and a team of Dutch engineers spent six weeks



It's horrifying!

(It's Architecturally?)



erecting it, at a total cost of £1 million. But the council says the 375-acre leisure park, is "obtrusive and incongruous" and nearly 40 ft is an elegant piece of architectural engineering," says Trevor Pullin, the park's managing director, who has appealed against the demolition order. Someone is being taken for a ride.

مكتبة الجليل

THE TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 11 1991
Ms Joanna Pitman
EX



MR KINNOCK'S LEFT HOOK

Far-reaching national conclusions will be drawn from the decision of the Militant-led broad left in Liverpool to run a candidate against the official Labour candidate in the forthcoming Walton by-election. The decision is a "challenge" to Neil Kinnock; a good vote for the rebel would be a "blow" to Mr Kinnock; the whole episode shows that Mr Kinnock's "problem" with the marxist left has not gone away.

These would be false conclusions. In politics as in music and football Liverpool has always been a law unto itself. Few other cities have been so weakly run. Not since Bill Sefton more than two decades ago has the city had a leader of quality. Liverpool is a city of tribes. Its politics are correspondingly tribal. Its local government was a shambles under the right wing Catholic-influenced tribe that took control in 1953; and a shambles under Sir Trevor Jones's Liberal tribe from 1973 before it became a shambles under the tribe of Militant and its allies in the early eighties.

Yet in few cities does the city government have such power. One in three Liverpoolians depends on the council for work. Nearly a third live in council houses. There is no strong private sector. The city council has enormous patronage and hence enjoys a near-totalitarian control over the lives of those who work there. Patronage is what the gangster politics of Liverpool is all about, patronage closely allied to the cronyism of the council's unions. Militant and its allies were able to exploit this to gain effective control of the council and then used patronage to maintain it.

Liverpool remains *sui generis*. Militant-backed councillors won five seats in the May 1991 local elections. Officially, Labour protested that this was because of intimidation, and because their opponents stole their brand name by calling themselves "real Labour". But the real Labour party would have shrugged off such obstacles had it been well-organised and well-liked. Labour was

neither. Its MPs were as low in calibre as its councillors. Unions which might be a force for responsibility had been hijacked by the left. These forces will influence this by-election and it would be no surprise if Lesley Mahmood, the broad left candidate, polled a substantial vote on July 11.

Mr Kinnock would like to humiliate her. Apathy accusing Militant of "GBH" against the city last week, he said Labour would regret the "division and dirt" that the left would bring to the campaign, but would "relish the fight and the victory". Even if the broad left does well the episode could turn to Mr Kinnock's advantage. Until now, his purge of Militant has offended some non-militants in the party who dislike its illiberalism. By standing against an official candidate, the left has now put itself clearly outside the party pale.

The hard left is now seen by the leadership as its best friend. Month by month, Mr Kinnock can use it to demonstrate his toughness in pursuit of political moderation. Four Militants were expelled from the Bermondsey party in February. Four were thrown out of Birkenhead in March. Thirteen from Tower Hamlets were arraigned in April; 25 Liverpool councillors were expelled in May. But attention is thus diverted from the battles that Mr Kinnock has yet to win.

The power of the unions in his party, exercised through the block vote at party conference and through special representation in constituency general committees, remains disproportionate. Mr Kinnock has not yet been tough enough with those local Labour leaders who, though not marxist, are stuck in the left-progressive mode of the Bennite early eighties. He has yet to win his party's activists for his revisionist Labour party. The particularities of Walton obscure these priorities, but they are the ones which Mr Kinnock must tackle convincingly before the general election.

DEALING WITH GANGSTERS

President Reagan frequently insisted that he would never negotiate with "terrorists". He bombed Libya to demonstrate, as much to fellow Western leaders as to the Arabs, that those who supported terrorism with weapons, money or even false passports could expect a fearsome response from the United States. Margaret Thatcher was equally adamant that Britain would make no deal with the fanatics who snatched Terry Waite, Jackie Mann and John McCarthy off the streets of Beirut.

Yet the credibility of the Reagan stand was undermined by the Iran-Contra scandal. Britain, holding fast to its principles, went nowhere in attempts to free its hostages, while France, Germany and other Community partners quietly fixed deals and bought their citizens home. Now Libya is trying to persuade Britain that it has changed its ways. And the gangsters in Beirut who hold their captives against a deal are dropping hints that a little diplomatic flexibility, a face-saving formula and the release of Arabs in Israeli prisons might secure freedom for captives who have become an embarrassment to their friends if not to them.

The moral must be that in dealing with those who propagate murder and mayhem governments should never say never. British public opinion was outraged by the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. Many people still feel strongly that a donation to a police charity almost amounts to blood money and expressions of regret cannot be a substitute for bringing the killer in the embassy to justice. Diplomatic relations are clearly out of the question for the moment, and probably quarantine must continue until Libya promises to punish the culprits. Colonel Gaddafi's promises are not yet backed up by deeds. British intelligence sources say the Libyans have not severed all links with the IRA and are still causing mischief among their African neighbours.

That does not mean that Libya's overtures

should be ignored altogether. Colonel Gaddafi told Teddy Taylor — an unlikely interlocutor, but a firm patriot whose assessment should carry weight — that Libya was ready to give Britain information about its aid to the IRA. This at least would be a helpful step. It would not alone for the murder in St James's Square. But it might prevent fresh murders on the streets of Belfast. The government should be ready to meet Libyan officials to discover what Tripoli has to say.

Douglas Hogg has a more difficult message to deliver in Beirut. He is there ostensibly to support the peace process now healing the wounds of civil war. Inevitably attention is concentrated on the hostages. He must tell intermediaries that Britain still will not buy their release. But Britain can suggest to the Israelis that it is time to release Sheikh Obeid, the kidnapped Shia cleric. And it can tell the kidnappers that they must in turn account for the seven Israelis missing in Lebanon. The Israelis, whose firmness on terrorism is well known, are reportedly ready to consider such a package.

Britain and America have often argued that any deal would only encourage hostage-taking. But the climate in the Middle East has changed. It no longer pays Iran and Syria to patronise the gangsters of Beirut. The Lebanese government and the Syrian army cannot yet guarantee the safety of Westerners, but they are ready to turn decisively against any faction advocating hostage-taking. What matters is that the suffering of the 12 men in underground cells should be ended. Mr Hogg must tell all his interlocutors how much is at stake. Until the men are released, Lebanon will be off limits to Western aid officials, and normal relations with Damascus and Tehran remain impossible. But Britain can also be pragmatic. Mr Hogg should find out in Beirut whether the captors' overtures are serious.

GOOCH, LOVELY GOOCH

As New Yorkers indulged in an orgy of celebration, self-congratulation and showmanship at their "mother of all parades", a victory of a different kind was being acknowledged with the briefest of nods from the winner at Headingley cricket ground. Graham Gooch, England captain and unassailable man of the match, remarked with typical understatement that "the boys played well" when they beat the West Indies, the best cricketers in the world, by 115 runs.

This was the first England Test victory over the West Indies on home ground for 22 years. Cricket commentators had grown used to inventing excuses: the English climate, the over-emphasis on limited-over games, the decline in school cricket. Even when England beat the West Indies 3-0 in the recent series of one-day matches — not quite the same, the purists say, as "real" cricket — most thought the home team's limitations would be exposed by the skills of the tourists' batsmen and bowlers over a five-day ordeal. Indeed, English cricket-lovers were supposed to console themselves with the idea that, secretly, they rather liked losing — Dunkirk and all that.

What rot! Nothing tastes sweeter than victory. But the English game does suffer from handicaps. Go to the West Indies, and every other little boy is out in the yard or on the beach playing rough-and-ready cricket, often with improvised bat and ball. Cricket in England has to compete not just with football and rugby, but with the proliferation of newly-popular sports such as golf, tennis and badminton, not to mention television, videos and computer games.

Certainly, yesterday's winning team showed the shortage of good, native-born cricketers — as well as the inadequacy of much England batting. Six of the 11 England players were born or brought up in Africa or the West Indies. One of the best turned out to be Phillip DeFreitas, who comes from Dominica. He shook off his somewhat fractious and erratic reputation to capture eight wickets for England over the two innings.

Yet the hero was a true and taciturn Essex man, Graham Gooch. His unbeaten 154 belied its modesty. It was one of the finest innings in the circumstances played by an England captain this century, probably the best since the second world war. He is now only the fourth Englishman, after Barrington, Boycott and Botham, to have made centuries on all the home Test grounds. Yesterday he added a couple of superb catches to his tally, one a low drive, one from the skies. He pulled the team back from humiliating defeat by Australia last winter, to the point where he has managed to persuade his players they are capable of winning, supremely important in a game so dominated by psychology.

One radio announcer jokingly introduced the last day's play as "Graham Gooch versus the West Indies". Yet rarely can success have gone so little to a man's head. No prima-donna posturing for Gooch. His achievement is a triumph of maturity over flashiness, of stolid persistence over erratic brilliance. *The Times* John Woodcock rightly described him yesterday as "only a little lower than the angels".

Berlin's role in future Germany

From Lord Annan

Sir, The politicians in Bonn will vote on June 20 to decide whether Berlin is to be the seat of government of a unified Germany. The signs are that they will vote against it. The Social Democrat Party has voted narrowly against moving to Berlin, and too many Christian Democrat members of the Bundestag are likely to follow the cosy provincialism of Count Lambdorff who said that, having bought a comfortable home, he saw no reason to move.

Perhaps they do not realise what an affront to their Western allies to desert Berlin will be. In 1946 America and Britain helped the courageous Social Democrats, who risked abduction by Soviet hit squads, to oppose the compulsory amalgamation of their party with the Communist party ordered in the Soviet zone.

In 1948 the Allies spent millions organising the airlift and several of their pilots were killed. Later they did what they could to help those trapped behind the Wall, where many died attempting to escape. Berlin became the symbol of resistance to totalitarianism.

Some may regard Berlin rather as the symbol of Prussian militarism and Nazi brutality. But Prussia was the first state to practise religious toleration and give refuge to the persecuted of every country. The Nazi party had its worst electoral results in Berlin, and it was there that in July 1944 Prussian aristocrats plotted against Hitler and paid for it with their lives.

President Weizsacker, who has a sense of history, pointed out that Berlin is the one asset which the East Germans can contribute to the unified state. It was not their fault that communist rule was imposed upon them. Have today's SPD forgotten June 17, 1953, when the Berlin workers rebelled and were clubbed into submission by the Stasi?

If the politicians in Bonn vote against Berlin, it will be a snub to their countrymen east of the Elbe suffering hardship and disillusion. It will also be an insult to those who gave their lives and resources to preserve Berlin as a free city.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL ANNAN,
House of Lords.

Polytechnic staffing

From the Director of Brighton Polytechnic

Sir, Your report of May 28 about staffing levels at Brighton Polytechnic is seriously misleading. The polytechnic is in no sense "planning" the level of cuts implied by the headline, but has been exploring the effect of a series of hypothetical projections about the levels of public funding available for higher education.

Your story refers to part of the resulting report, quoted without context in a resolution at the conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. Your reporter also exaggerates the effect of the current year's budget on our Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities. No reductions are planned in permanently appointed staff.

We hope that these projections will prove unduly pessimistic, but they do indicate the scale of the needs of the service if it is to expand as planned over the next decade. Brighton Polytechnic has an enviable academic record and, as you acknowledge, is at present in a strong financial position. We wish to preserve these hard-won assets.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATSON, Director,
Brighton Polytechnic,
Mithras House, Lewes Road,
Brighton, Sussex.

Grey area

From Mrs V. R. Bond

Sir, I am writing to complain about the high-handed way in which Benedict Nightingale has changed the sex of Little Grey Rabbit. This is the third Saturday on which he has done this in your Review section so it cannot be excused as a mistake; to do so once is bad enough, but three times...

Little Grey Rabbit was a sweet sensible creature without a single masculine attribute and I think that Mr Nightingale should publish a full apology. As to the primrose wine, its alcoholic content was never stated, but it certainly gave Wise Owl the hiccups and also affected his flying ability.

Yours faithfully,
V. R. BOND,
6 Elizabeth Avenue,
Bagshot, Surrey,
June 1.

Nuclear trade

From Dr David Lowry

Sir, Whilst we should welcome the decision of the French government to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (report, June 3), albeit 23 years after it was opened for signature on July 1, 1968, questions will remain regarding France's sincerity.

Embodied in the NPT is a bargain between 138 non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS) and three nuclear weapon states (NWS) — the US, UK and USSR — which are the depositary nations. It is essentially based on a carrot-and-stick philosophy, whereby the NNWS expect to receive access to nuclear technology under NPT article IV and the NWS promise to negotiate away their nuclear weapons in good faith "at an

Education the key on alcohol abuse

From the Director of the Portman Group

Sir, The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys' figures show that young men between 18 and 24 are drinking less but they are still the heaviest consumers. How you persuade these young men to be sensible about their drinking is something that neither the government (report, June 5) nor the Labour document on health (report, June 4) address.

Take a particular young man, aged 21, single, and doing well in his first job. I asked him to detail his weekly drinking. He is drinking more than three times what the government regards as a sensible level every week, mostly in the form of exotic "cocktails" in pubs and fashionable clubs.

We may argue about what is a sensible level but in the case of this young man such argument is irrelevant. He is drinking too much by any standards and ought to be

encouraged to drink less. His drinking behaviour, which is not uncommon, is a form of social alcoholism.

What this young man had not had was any form of alcohol education. When I go to schools to talk about alcohol, I find that ignorance about the subject is widespread and not only among the pupils. One headmaster told me that he allowed his senior pupils to drink cider, but never spirits. When I pointed out that a pint of strong cider contained as much alcohol as four whiskies, he refused to believe me.

If we want to reduce the number of adults who drink too much, we must take alcohol education more seriously, and that must include the education of parents and teachers as well as pupils.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAE, Director,
The Portman Group,
2d Wimpole Street, W1,
June 5.

South Bank demolition

From Mr Alexander Chablo

Sir, I am prompted to write by your front-page report on the proposed demolition of the Queen Elizabeth Hall and proposals for the South Bank (June 1).

In a period when resources for arts facilities and activities are hard to come by, it seems both wasteful and wilful to demolish the two serviceable concert halls of the QEH, and the varied and flexible temporary exhibition spaces provided by the Hayward Gallery.

When a whole architectural period is out of fashion its important buildings are most at risk and need protection. The architecture of the sixties is currently unfashionable. However one day we may again see the bold forms of the QEH as expressive of positive values.

The QEH is, however, a building in which the expression of, and exposure of, servicing, in this case of air distribution, is an important architectural feature. The servicing

elements are also given a different surface treatment from the served spaces.

The very real architectural importance of the QEH lies in being an innovative example of "the architecture of services", and it is this that distinguishes it from run-of-the-mill concrete architecture of the period. It is a precursor to buildings such as the award-winning Lloyd's building in London, by architect Richard Rogers.

It is not too late to reconsider the fate of the South Bank, since architects have not even been appointed for the new scheme. The original scheme seems to have been scrapped despite protestations that this is not the case. All that appears to remain from the original scheme is the Post-Modernist architect and his proposal for violence to the Modernist QEH.

Yours faithfully,
A. CHABLO,
11 Winkley Court, Eastcote Lane,
Harrow, Middlesex,
June 5.

Learning to swim

From the Director General of Rospa

Sir, Why have Kate Hoey and Ann Winterton (Sport, June 4) singled out swimming as deserving to be taught on the national curriculum? Miss Hoey's assertion that "the ability to swim is a critical factor in reducing the risk of drowning" is unsupported by the drowning statistics which Rospa have collected over the last eight years.

The number of school children drowning has dramatically decreased with the reduction of swimming lessons in schools. Most of those who drown do so in open water (principally rivers and lakes) where even an expert indoor swimmer may be at a match for the debilitating effects of cold water and

strong currents. Non-swimmers, being naturally cautious near water, are less likely to place themselves at risk by playing beside or swimming in open water in the first place.

Of course, swimming ability could save a life in optimum circumstances, but we feel that it is dangerous to promote swimming as a drowning-prevention skill, when an understanding of the dangers of and a respect for water are much more likely to reduce the numbers who drown each year in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN WETHERED,
Director General,
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,
Cannon House,
The Priory, Queensway,
Birmingham 4, West Midlands,
June 5.

A Constable gallery

From Mr Hugh Leggatt

Sir, Following your report (June 6) in which I advocated a gallery to unify the holdings of Constable's pictures belonging to the National Museums and Galleries in London, I could not have envisaged the extensive interest and encouragement that this suggestion would generate.

Since Turner is so well represented in the Clarendon Gallery to the east of the Tate, the ideal site for a Constable gallery would naturally be to the west; this is now occupied by the Ministry of Defence.

Since the Tate, together with the Victoria & Albert Museum, have the largest holdings of Constable's pictures between them these works, perhaps together with the addition of certain ones from the British Museum, could be a permanent focal point for this genius of British art.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
17 Duke Street,
St James's, SW1,
June 10.

Lost street signs

From Miss Emma Broadbent

Sir, Am I the only Londoner who regrets the removal of the old City of London street signs? With the City constantly changing and old familiar buildings being replaced by new designs the signs are often the only reminder of its history.

The new signs are in a different type face and they show the Corporation of London's crest. They have very little to recommend them. The old signs are to be auctioned off.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA BROADBENT,
6 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

Regimental values

From Mr L. C. J. Paul

Sir, In his article ("Satisfying the honour of our regiments", June 5), Michael Evans, your defence correspondent, asks if the British regimental system is sufficiently flexible to meet future challenges and reminds us that, in the Gulf war, regiments had to be boosted with companies from other regiments.

He gives as an example a company of Grenadier Guards serving with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and says that, despite different cap badges, they cooperated well. They cooperated well, not despite their different cap badges, but because of them.

The company of Grenadier Guards would have been determined to perform well simply because their cap badge, and all it represents, was different. And this is what the regimental system is all about.

Yours sincerely,
L. C. J. PAUL,
Flat 2, 34 Frognaal,
Hampstead, NW3,
June 5.

Early bird

From Dr A. J. Almond

Sir, I have just been telephoned on my emergency number at 4.45am by a patient enquiring, quite politely, whether transport had been organised for his admission to hospital at 10.30 this morning.

In the context of the current debate on the NHS perhaps this reflects the level of patient expectation of the service.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. ALMOND,
Barn Close,
Broadway Road,
King's Teipton,
Newton Abbot, South Devon,
June 4.

Disturbing report from Armenia

From Lord Avebury

Sir, We have received reports from the British Armenian community, and from Baroness Cox, who just returned from a mission she led to Armenia and Azerbaijan, that a systematic campaign is under way by Soviet and Azerbaijani forces, using helicopter gunships and armour, to displace and murder whole Armenian communities of the region.

The Cox mission had intended to visit the enclave of Nagorno Karabakh as well, but this was impossible, because the Azeris had occupied the airport at Stepanakert and refused them permission to land. The atrocities against Armenians, and the total isolation of Nagorno Karabakh, are being misrepresented by the Soviets as an ethnic conflict, but the Armenians have no military capacity to defend themselves against the high technology being deployed against them.

On Wednesday the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Mr Anatoly Lukyanov, arrives in London for an official Speaker's visit. This will afford his contacts here with an opportunity of conveying directly to the authorities in the Soviet Union the horror which these events will arouse in the minds of the British people, recollecting the pogroms suffered by Armenians at the hands of the Ottomans, culminating in the extermination of the Armenian population of what is now eastern Turkey.

It must be made quite plain to Mr Lukyanov that the West cannot start to consider helping the Soviet Union to solve its present economic problems until the authorities give orders to the military to protect Armenians against Azerbaijani attacks; to disarm the notorious paramilitary forces of Azerbaijan, and to escort displaced Armenians back to their homes with adequate protection.

Yours faithfully,
AVEBURY,
(Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group),
House of Lords,
June 9.

Housing 'recovery'

From Mr David B. Milne

Sir, Would it be too much to ask, that, in future, all reports of "a recovery in the housing market", (report, June 4) be treated as items of pessimistic news?

I should have thought we had all learned a salutary lesson over the past few years that runaway house prices, fuelled by excessive and incompetent lending policies by the leading banks and building societies, have been a social and economic disaster for this country and will hopefully never be repeated.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID B. MILNE,
1 East Mascalls Farm Cottages,
Walstead, or Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
June 4.

Modern manners

From Mr Stephan Schattmann

Sir, It was a convention that politicians, and especially former prime ministers and other ex-ministers, did not criticise the government of the day outside the country, either through the spoken or the written word. This is what I was taught at the London School of Economics 45 years ago. Today, it appears, the market dictates otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHAN SCHATTMANN,
65c Wigmore Street, W1,
June 7.

Pressing enquiry

From Mrs R. C. Easley

Sir, Mr Wood (June 3) casts a slur on an invention which marks a milestone in the emancipation of women. I gave my husband a trouser press for Christmas!

Yours faithfully,
MARIANNE ELSLEY,
The Old House, Philcote Street,
Deddington, Banbury,
Oxfordshire,
June 6.

From Mrs Olwyn Bailey

Sir, Until recently, when my husband acquired his own "contraption", he would take all trousers he possessed on business trips, bringing them back neatly pressed, much to my approval.

Yours faithfully,
OLWYN BAILEY,
2 Elmhurst,
Eggington, Derbyshire,
June 3.

Vantage, voyeur?

From Mr Maurice Vass

Sir, On Sunday I watched on TV the final of the French Open Poceur Tournament. Just occasionally I caught tantalising glimpses of something happening in the background, where two young men appeared to be playing some pretty good tennis.

As there is to be a similar gathering shortly in the south London borough of Wimbledon, I wonder if the camera team could show just a few more shots of the tennis, as other TV voyeurs might find that almost as interesting as looking at the beautiful people.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE VASS,
The Thatch, South Town,
Dartmouth, Devon,
June 9.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News
8.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club (p.30) Travel Show
Guides, island hopping in Greece
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Paddy's
House (p.10) 10.35 The Hogan Family, American comedy series (p.10)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 High Chaparral, Classic
Series western series starring Cameron Mitchell (p.11) 11.55
Reviving Antiques, John Fitzmaurice offers advice on how to
scrape sticky substances off carpets (p.11)
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Scene Again, Scene
Today shows highlights with Judi Squires 12.25 Hooked on
Scotland, Champion fly fishermen, Paul Young, looks at rainbow
bow from a new angle 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
2.15 Film: Life for Ruth (1962, b/w) Emotionally-charged moral drama
about a doctor who prescribes charges against the father of a girl
who died because their religion prevents blood transfusions.
Starring Michael Cregg, Janet Munro and Patrick McGovern.
Directed by Basil Dearden. Northern Ireland: Open House 3.00 The
Flintstones 3.25 Greenfingers
3.50 Quick Draw McGraw (p.4) 4.00 Mick and Mac, Comedy series
featuring Michael Barrymore (p.4) 4.10 Happy Families (p.4) 4.25 The
Further Adventures of SuperTed (p.4) 4.35 Dungeons and
Dragons (p.4)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 The Act-8, Sport and leisure series. This
week's activities include street and roller hockey, stunt kites, and
equality on the football pitch. (Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours (p.4) (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside
Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford, Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines, Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Bread, Carla Lane's toast to Liverpool low life, following the
trials and tribulations of the Boswell family (p.4) (Cee-fax)
7.30 News and weather
8.00 Dad's Army, Classic war-time capers with Arthur Lowe and the
boys of the Home Guard. A German aircraft crew land in a nearby
lake, and Mainwaring and his men attempt to bring them ashore (p.4).
(Cee-fax)
8.30 Big Break, Battle of the beaze game show with Jim Davidson. The
guests are Alex Higgins, Ray Reardon and Australian national
champion Neil Pender. (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis, Regional news and
weather. (Cee-fax)
9.30 All Good Things: The Flat, Not even when Shirley plans a
weekend away with Paul can she forget about the rest of the
people who live under her wing. Starring Brenda Blethyn and
Warren Clarke. (Cee-fax)

BBC 2

7.10 Open University: Working for Love, Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster, A round-up of business from the Houses
of Lords and Commons
9.00 Daytime on Two
9.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (p.2) 2.15 Under Salt:
The Great Wall Race, Modern medicine tells the story when the
mail was transported in the Baltic by open boat (p.2) 2.35 Sea Heat
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career in a small Midwestern town. She has been loved by three
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Sentimental tear-jerker with William Gargan, Edmund Gwenn and
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5.30 Gardeners' World, Pippa Greenwood presents some of the more
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flower beds with the help of 'bit' behaviourist Peter Neville. Dr
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sleazy plot concerns the despair of the ship's crew in the face of
meat-spirited and cruel captain (Burt Reynolds). The cast was little
known at the time but now seems positively star-studded. Viewers
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8.30 Chalkface: Je Ne Regrette Rien, Entertaining drama series about
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Things are definitely heating up in the once sleepy town of the
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of Windom Earle's lethal plans. (Cee-fax)

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6.00 The Channel Four Daily
6.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily, With Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street (p.1)
2.00 Film: Page Miss Glory (1935, b/w), Entertaining Warner Brothers
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picked by two confidence tricksters (Pat O'Brien and Frank
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soon making a mint from the fees she can command for sponsored
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3.45 Peter Smith Special: The Dismembering Male (b/w), A 1940
treatise on women's tactics for pursuing men plus advice on how to
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4.00 Return to Nursing: Talking Special Care, The Open College
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5.30 Listening Eye: Recognising the Signs, Series focusing on issues
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6.00 Duet, Sitcom about an unlikely couple living in Los Angeles
6.30 Happy Days, Fifteen-set sitcom starring Henry Winkler
7.00 Channel 4 News, (Teletext) Weather
7.50 Comment
8.00 Our Backyard: Making Waves.
● CHOICE: Surfers Against Sewage is an environmental pressure
group formed by surfers in Cornwall to protest against the nasty
things that turn up in their sea water. As the waves break, covered
the surfers with used condoms and other unpleasant, one
campaigner says it is like being in a washing machine full of
sewage. The group has taken the fight to the local water authority,
carrying a bag of beached sewage to the annual general meeting
it sells surfers' T-shirts to raise funds, visits schools and puts
its case on radio and television. Branded as the villain, South West
Water blames a century of underfunding and says people should
be more careful about what they put down the lavatory. Moving
further afield, Surfers Against Sewage travels to south Wales and
lobbies MPs, Meanwhile, across the country, 400 million gallons of
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7.50 Comment
8.00 Our Backyard: Making Waves.
● CHOICE: Surfers Against Sewage is an environmental pressure
group formed by surfers in Cornwall to protest against the nasty
things that turn up in their sea water. As the waves break, covered
the surfers with used condoms and other unpleasant, one
campaigner says it is like being in a washing machine full of
sewage. The group has taken the fight to the local water authority,
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it sells surfers' T-shirts to raise funds, visits schools and puts
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Water blames a century of underfunding and says people should
be more careful about what they put down the lavatory. Moving
further afield, Surfers Against Sewage travels to south Wales and
lobbies MPs, Meanwhile, across the country, 400 million gallons of
sewage are being discharged into the sea every day

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Cross Wits, Crossword game show hosted by Tom O'Connor
9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 Out of This World, American comedy series. Evie (Donna Pescow)
is the one-millionth customer at the "Goodie-Goodie", a place
where she is not supposed to be at the time and, to make matters
worse, she will have her face on the front page of the local
newspaper
10.30 This Morning, Family magazine
12.10 Rod, Jane and Freddy tell stories and sing songs about boxes (p.1)
12.30 News and weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 Take the High Road, Scottish drama serial 2.50 Win, Lose or
Draw, Pen and paper charades hosted by Denny Baker
3.15 ITV News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families
3.55 Thames Tank Engine and Friends (p.4) 4.00 What's-Mess (p.4)
4.15 The Return of Dogtanian 4.40 Press Gang, Children's
drama serial about a group of teenage newshounds. (Oracle)
5.10 Blockbusters with Bob Holness
5.40 News, (Oracle) Weather
5.55 Thames Help, A look at some of the activities available in the
capital for the under-fives. Presented by Jackie Speckley
6.00 Home and Away (p.1) (Oracle)
6.30 Thames News, Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
7.30 Thames Reports, Items on shops facing huge rent increases and
the increasingly bitter battle between competing model agencies
8.00 The Bill: Something Personal, Fast-paced police drama.
Following the death of a young woman DC Dashedwood (Jon Les) is
led back to a past crime and old enemies. With Mark Wingett and
Donald T. Allen
8.30 Wheel of Fortune, Game show hosted by Nicky Campbell.
(Oracle)

Channel 4

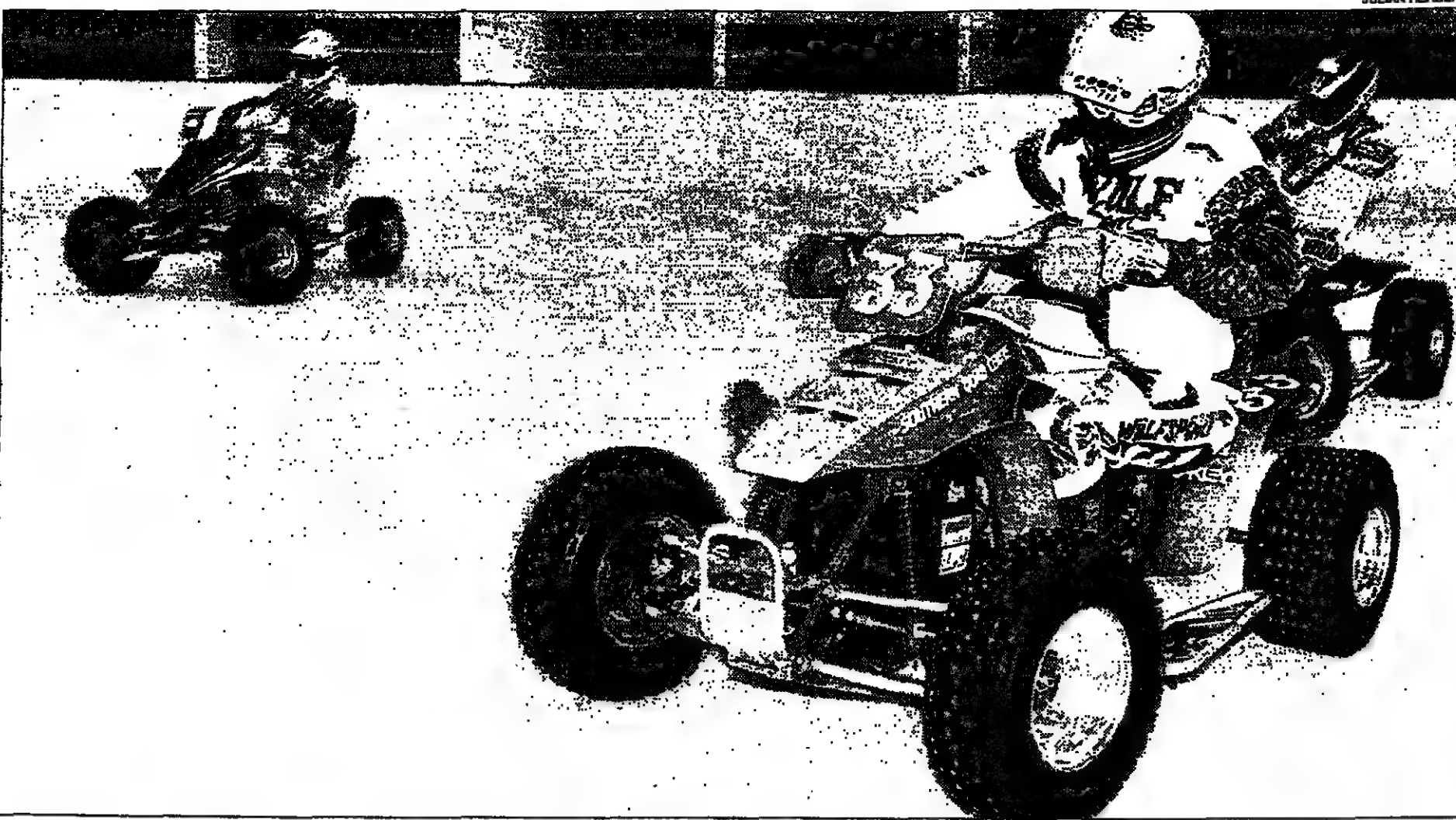
6.00 The Channel Four Daily
6.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 Business Daily, With Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street (p.1)
2.00 Film: Page Miss Glory (1935, b/w), Entertaining Warner Brothers
comedy starring Marion Davis as a small-town girl who comes to
New York, where she finds a job as a chamber maid. Then she is
picked by two confidence tricksters (Pat O'Brien and Frank
McHugh) to impersonate America's most beautiful girl. They are
soon making a mint from the fees she can command for sponsored
advertising - although they have to keep her a virtual prisoner to
stop her blowing the whistle on the scam. Matters are
complicated, however, when Davis falls in love with actor Victor
Powell. With Mary Astor and Allen Jenkins. Directed by Mervyn
Perley
3.45 Peter Smith Special: The Dismembering Male (b/w), A 1940
treatise on women's tactics for pursuing men plus advice on how to
party
4.00 Return to Nursing: Talking Special Care, The Open College
series looking at the range of opportunities for people interested in
a career in nursing. This edition focuses on the many technological
changes that have taken place in recent years affecting
pediatrics and intensive care (p.1). (Teletext)
4.30 Ffawcett-One, Fast-paced quiz hosted by William G. Stewart
5.00 North's Ark, A repeat of the Spanish playgoer looks at the
flora and fauna of the wild and inhospitable coast of Patagonia
5.30 Listening Eye: Recognising the Signs, Series focusing on issues
important to the deaf and hard of hearing community. This
programme looks at the sign language possibilities raised by the
revolution in video and computer technology and finds out how far
the British government are prepared to go towards recognising a
national sign language. With signing and subtitles
6.00 Duet, Sitcom about an unlikely couple living in Los Angeles
6.30 Happy Days, Fifteen-set sitcom starring Henry Winkler
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TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.55pm-7.00 Anglia
News 7.30-8.00 Help 8.05pm-8.10pm
1.30pm-1.40pm For You? 2.00
Intermission UK 3.00 Night Flight 4.00
Stand Up 4.30 Jack Thompson Down
Under 5.00-5.10 Help

BORDER
As London except: 6.55pm-7.00 News and
Daughters 6.10-6.40 Home and Away 6.00
Lookaround Tuesday 6.50-7.00 Blockbuster
7.30-8.00 Wide Angle 12.55pm-1.00pm
State of the Nation 1.55-2.00pm News
Pulse 2.00-2.10pm News 4.30-4.40pm
6.55-7.00pm

CENTRAL
As London except: 6.55pm-7.00 Central
News 7.30-8.00 Help 8.05pm-8.10pm
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Slippery customers: quad bikes equipped with special studded tyres demonstrating the new sport, imported from America two months ago, at Bracknell ice rink, Berkshire

Doctors go on waiting list for shorter hours

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE royal medical colleges and hospital consultants have scuppered a deal to reduce junior doctors' hours, it was claimed last night.

On Wednesday the government is expected to announce a new agreement to cut the working hours of junior doctors to 72 hours a week by 1997. Forty per cent of doctors, probably those working in paediatrics, obstetrics and neonatal care, will have their hours cut by 1995, but the remainder will have to wait a

fewer two years.

Last December, however, junior doctors drew up an agreement with the health department to put all doctors on a 72-hour working week by 1995. Junior doctor representatives said it was "outrageous" that the agreement had been tampered with.

"The consultants and royal colleges, the dinosaurs of the profession, have backtracked on the deal," said Sam Everington, co-ordinator of the junior doctors' campaign to

reduce hours. "The very people who through their complacency have failed to do anything about hours over the last ten years are now supping the deal."

Last month, after a meeting between consultants and junior doctors, it was clear that senior doctors were unhappy about the timetable set for the new arrangements. Consultants fear that if juniors are put on a shorter working week too quickly they will have to take on all the extra workload.

Last night the British Medical Association appeared to be treading a careful path between the two groups of professionals. The association pointed out that it was important to have flexibility over the timetable to ensure that one group of overworked professionals were not merely replaced with another.

"We are quite happy with the way it has been worked out," said a BMA spokesman. The association had been instrumental in setting up the talks and reaching an agreement with health ministers to cut hours, he said. "We want something that will stick, will work and will deliver."

Labour faces showdown

Continued from page 1

Socialist Workers' party who have chosen the honest path of standing outside the Labour party. Militant will now be seen as separate from the Labour party and we can beat them."

Labour officials said that the broad left had made two elementary mistakes, setting themselves up as a separate party and choosing a Militant supporter. Anyone who works and publicly campaigns for Ms Mahmood will effectively be putting themselves outside

the Labour party's writ. There will be no need for a long process of mass expulsions; they will be deemed to have expelled themselves by backing a candidate against the official Labour choice. People who campaign under the colours of an alternative political party are automatically ineligible for Labour membership.

"Our campaign will portray these people as the same bunch who wrecked Liverpool in the mid-Eighties. They are the gangsters trying to get back into town," an official said.

There was no let-up in the electioneering mood yesterday as Michael Howard, the employment secretary, claimed that Labour's policies would double the numbers out of work to more than four million.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said the government had been too laggardly in cutting interest rates. "The consensus view among the industrialists that we have spoken to is that the recession is very deep indeed."

Major draws up personal agenda

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE prime minister has decided to use the time leading up to the general election to place his personal stamp on a range of policies and to develop the agenda of Majorism.

He called advisers and party officials to Chequers yesterday to begin preparations on two key speeches, the first to the Welsh Conservatives on Friday and the other to the Tory women's conference on June 27, that are being billed as vital to the party's fightback against Labour.

The second speech in particular is expected to be used by Mr Major to spell out his political philosophy in greater depth.

Mr Major's advisers are openly using the word "Majorism" to describe the prime minister's personal agenda. So far it is clear that a commitment to improved public services through the citizens' charter will be its centrepiece, with new emphasis being laid on education, trade union reform, privatisation and contracting out of services.

Election timing was not apparently discussed at yesterday's gathering, attended among others by Sarah Hogg, head of the Downing Street policy unit, Judith Chaplin, Mr Major's political secretary,

and John Cope, the Conservative deputy chairman. Although he has not yet decided to do so, senior Tory MPs welcomed indications that Mr Major might take the opportunity soon effectively to rule out an autumn election. One MP said: "Unless he kills the speculation Labour will go on having a field day. The best way of deflating them would be to remove the prospect of early poll."

Meanwhile, a comeback for Norman Tebbit in the run-up to the election is being predicted at Westminster. Some MPs feel he would give much-needed bite to the party's campaigning.

There was no let-up in the electioneering mood yesterday as Michael Howard, the employment secretary, claimed that Labour's policies would double the numbers out of work to more than four million.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said the government had been too laggardly in cutting interest rates. "The consensus view among the industrialists that we have spoken to is that the recession is very deep indeed."

Tebbit role, page 8

Political sketch

Banquo's ghost was a Welshman

WELSH question time yesterday was overshadowed by a phantom presence. It hung in the air like Banquo's ghost. Constant reference was made to it, each MP confident that he knew its opinion on every subject and was personally familiar with its habits. But nobody could agree what these were.

They called it "the people of Wales". Just when you thought it was safe to go caravanning there.

The "people of Wales" were summoned at every question: as judge, jury, witness and final arbiter. Whatever you felt on any matter, that was what "the people of Wales" felt, too. They would bear you out. If, however, your political opponent thought the opposite, why — "the people of Wales" supported him, too. Seldom can a race have proved itself as fickle in its affections or unstable in its judgement as "the people of Wales" yesterday.

"The people of Wales do not want market forces!" cried Alan Williams (Lab, Carmarthen) asking about hospitals. Junior minister Nicholas Bennett shot back: "The people of Wales do not want the truth hidden!"

"The people of Wales are not going to be frightened" by Labour lies, thought the Tories' Kenneth Hind (W. Lancs). But according to Alan Michael (Lab, Cardiff & Penarth) "the people of Wales" were frightened already and "have a right to be frightened" at having Mr Bennett as a minister. Cardiff's Ian Grist (C) agreed they were frightened, because Labour "were going around trying to scare the people of Wales". Hard, surely, to pin them down to scare properly, because (according to Bennett) "the people of Wales are already moving around" to get their operations faster.

A disturbing picture was growing of this bewildered tribe: a worried people, anxiously chewing leaks, plucking harps and fiddling with

daffodils as they rushed from hospital to hospital in search of operations while ducking the "redundancies", "raining down" (gasp! Labour front-bencher Barry Jones) "on the people of Wales".

Or were they? Wyn Roberts (entering his thirteenth year as a Welsh minister, so he should know) advised that "the people of Wales would prefer to listen" to an "excellent" announcement about jobs: "very good news for the people of Wales".

Barry Jones thought that the Government's economic policies "are hurting the people of Wales". Said Bennett: "He continues to misrepresent the facts to the people of Wales". Will the real people of Wales please stand up?

Allan Rogers (Lab, Rhondda) stood up. Please God he is not typical. In a sort of threatening whine about Mr Speaker's choice of MPs, Mr Rogers achieved the impossible: he menaced, whined, moralised and patronised all within a single question. There is something of the television evangelist and something of the playground bully struggling within the breast of this one small Welshman.

He had the effrontery to complain about the Speaker letting MPs who do not have Welsh constituencies speak. And this man is an opposition defence spokesman! So we English are to have our military policy directed by Mr Rogers, while being scolded if we express an opinion on Wales?

Geoffrey Dickens (C, Litchborough & Saddleworth), with blessed and characteristic post-colonial tact, remarked of (Scotland, Ireland and Wales) that "we pour millions and millions of pounds into these countries" and we were entitled to look in to ask how it was spent.

It is the best thing Dickens has said all year. The people of Wales would agree.

MATTHEW PARRIS

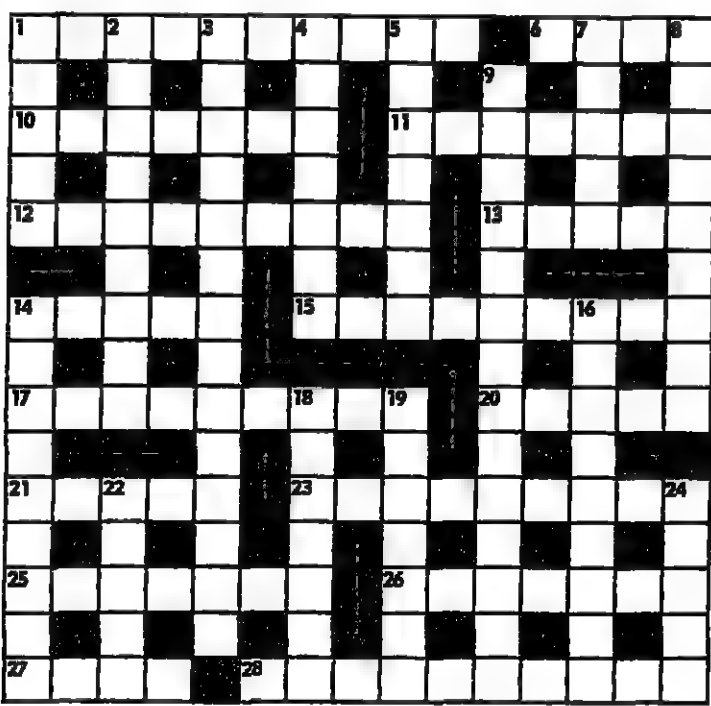
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

'Who will review the book reviewers? This is not as easy a question to answer as it ought to be. There are three regular assessments of book reviewing in the press: the pseudonymous *Quentin Oates* in *The Bookmaker*, the pseudonymous *Harvey Porlock* in *The Sunday Times*, and the pseudonymous *William Starling* in *The Sunday Telegraph*. *Dog may eat dog, but he does it under an assumed name: dog may later want to be employed by dog*'

Sean French on the reviewers, in *Times Media* tomorrow

Plus: Richard Morrison talks to producer Elaine Padmore about next week's mega *Tosca* at Ears Court

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,629



- ACROSS**
- Scholar entering burial chamber
 - Young woman in charge (10)
 - Midriff of principal boy is covered (4)
 - Instrument in a tubocar in Amsterdam (7)
 - Old vessel like Oceanus (7)
 - Farm worker using Charles's Wain by hand (9)
 - Standing order from Crete (5)
 - Terror's memorial (5)
 - One month it's included in fuel output, being deliberately misleading (9)
 - An old railway hotel for the poor (9)
 - A very small amount keeps an artist in drink (5)
 - This scourge is nothing, according to some (5)
 - Directions about routine tasks given by a recluse (9)
 - Wine is immature Indian port

Solution to Puzzle No 18,628

SCRAPE AS GOOD AS
A E G T M I P
FUCHSIA OVERSEE
E O T L P N S E
T E R M I N A L Y R E N D
Y D L I A N
P A S T E U R G A L A T E A
I N E M L T
N O T I C E D T I E P O L O
E E L O R N
S U N G L E G I T I M A T E
C S B T N A T M
A L I M E N T C O N F I N E
P I N A F O R E W E I G H T

- DOWN**
- That's knocked back in the interior (7)
 - Flatter a university student during an assignment (7)
 - Informal sending back three-quarters of class (4)
 - Right, say, to provide crew — it's character-forming (10)
 - Many dividing meat eat noisily (5)
 - Chemical process almost put an end to in man's blunder (9)
 - Unexpected catch associated with Scorpio (5,2,3,4)
 - Bewitched fish on surface of sea (7)
 - Like certain Verses without a beat, so it appears (7)
 - Weapon provided gratis for the self-employed (5)
 - The contest poor Colin hated, not I (9)
 - Guiding line for the direction of a driver's course (8-6)
 - Burglar with a sense of humour (7)
 - A traveller in apartment at top of house provides light for the landing (5-4)
 - Ignorant woman introducing pottery (7)
 - Cry out when former partner gets title (7)
 - Law-abiding state of the Templars, for example (5)
 - Cleaner little seen in empty shop (5)

Concise crossword, page 21

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MICA

- A corporate chartered accountant
- A shady lady
- A dash drug addict

CONVENANCE

- Transferring property
- Coming together
- Propriety of behaviour

FUGLE

- A brass flute
- To cheat
- A Swiss sergeant

LATILA

- Worship of God
- Public lavatories
- An Arabian courtyard

Answers on page 22

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	
C. London (within N & S Cies)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Northern Ireland, Wales, western Scotland and western England will have rain, which will be heavy at times. By the afternoon, however, these parts will turn brighter but showery. Eastern Scotland and northeast and central England will also be cloudy and wet. Southeast England will become cloudy with rain by the afternoon. It will be a windy day with gales in exposed parts. Outlook: more rain and wind.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: 1st-fair, 2nd-dry, 3rd-fog, 4th-sun, 5th-sun, 6th-sun, 7th-sun, 8th-sun, 9th-sun, 10th-sun, 11th-sun, 12th-sun, 13th-sun, 14th-sun, 15th-sun, 16th-sun, 17th-sun, 18th-sun, 19th-sun, 20th-sun, 21st-sun, 22nd-sun, 23rd-sun, 24th-sun, 25th-sun, 26th-sun, 27th-sun, 28th-sun, 29th-sun, 30th-sun, 31st-sun

C	F	C	F
Algeria	22/27	Majorca	25/30
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31
Algeria	22/27	Malta	27/31

AROUND BRITAIN

Sun	Rain	Min	Max
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15
London	10	10	15

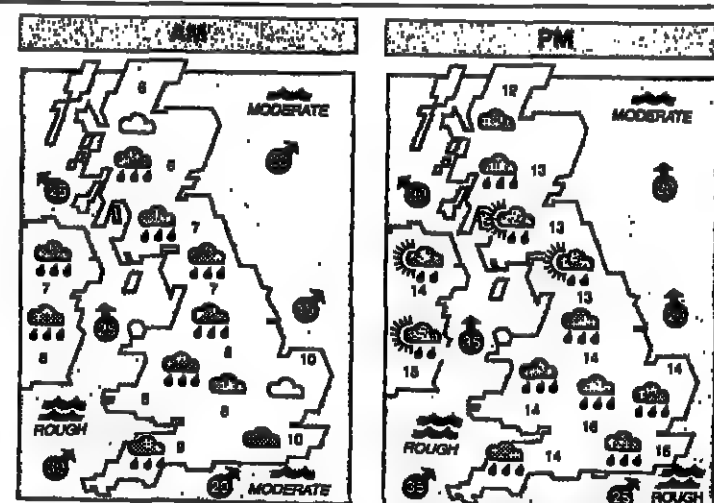
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	
Dorset & Dorset	701
Dorset & Dorset	702
Dorset & Dorset	703
Dorset & Dorset	704
Dorset & Dorset	705
Dorset & Dorset	706
Dorset & Dorset	707
Dorset & Dorset	708
Dorset & Dorset	709
Dorset & Dorset	710

Greater London	
Dorset & Dorset	701
Dorset & Dorset	702
Dorset & Dorset	703
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Dorset & Dorset	708
Dorset & Dorset	709
Dorset & Dorset	710

Weathercall is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp. Cromer, Norfolk, and Lowestoft, Suffolk, 21C (70F); lowest day temp. Fair Isle, Shetland, 0C (32F); highest night temp. Aberdeen, 17.0C; highest sunrise: Harrogate, 12.1 hr.

GLASGOW

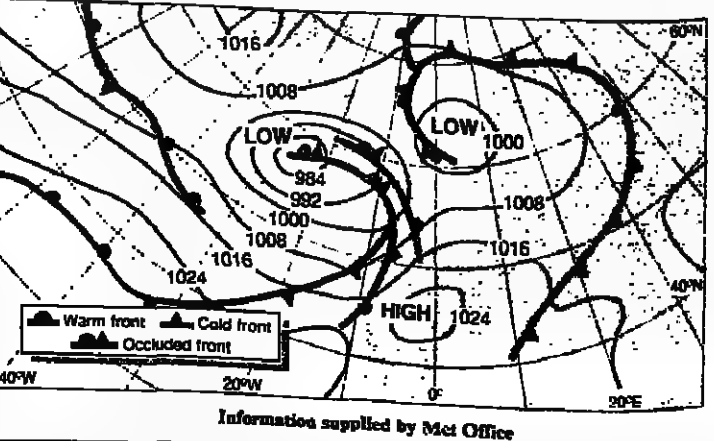
Yesterday: Temp. max 6m to 6pm, 19C (66F); min 6pm to 6am, 12C (54F). Humidity: 65 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.07 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.7 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1,011.9 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars—29.53 in.

NEW MOON TOMORROW

Yesterday: Temp. max 6m to 6pm, 19C (66F); min 6pm to 6am, 12C (54F). Humidity: 65 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.07 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 4.7 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1,011.9 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars—29.53 in.

LOW TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2
Aberdeen	12.42	3.9	12.42	3.9	Aberdeen	10.46	8.0	11.13	8.2



Information supplied by Met Office

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IF TIMES TUESDAY JUNE 11 1991

Political sketch
nquo's ghost
a Welshman

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● LAW TIMES 31-33
● SPORT 36-40

THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY JUNE 11 1991

25

Business Editor
John Bell

Rayner took 6% cut in salary

LORD Rayner, who retired as chairman of Marks and Spencer at the group's year end on April 1, took a 6 per cent pay cut last year, despite an increase in group pre-tax profits of 4 per cent to £616 million.

The report and accounts, due out today, shows that the four highest paid directors of Britain's biggest high street retailer saw their salaries fall last year.

Lord Rayner's salary fell from £620,000 to £585,000. He received a 46 per cent rise in the previous year.

The four highest paid directors, believed to include Rick Greenbury, the chief executive who also took on the role of chairman in April, Clinton Silver, the deputy chairman, and Keith Oates, the finance director, did not receive any bonuses last year.

The group, which cut 850 jobs a month after Mr Greenbury took over as chairman, awarded its general staff a pay increase of 2.6 per cent in April last year, to be paid over three years. The award was seen as generous and other retail groups had difficulty in competing with it. The M&S management received 8½ per cent last year.

Directors' pay has become a much discussed topic, with Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential, and Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman and chief executive of Tesco, coming under fire from shareholders for their salary increases last year.

Comment, page 27

Payout raised

Empap, the magazine and provincial newspaper group, has increased its dividend by 5.2 per cent to 6.9p for the year ended March, despite a 19 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £30.8 million after exceptional redundancy costs of £12 million.

Tempus, page 27

THE POUND

JS dollar
6680 (-0.0045)
German mark
1.9524 (-0.0063)
Exchange index
0.8 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

T 30 Share
364.4 (+9.2)
T-SE 100
111.9 (+5.8)
aw York Dow Jones
76.97 (+0.23)
kyo Nikkei Ave
598.38 (-436.73)

MAJOR CHANGES

ES:
Douglas 455p (+30p)
Ford 575p (+8p)
le & Wireless 515p (+10p)
Home Elect 785p (+10p)
385p (+7p)
alk 425p (+11p)
her Sidelity 580p (+8p)
Service 195p (+25p)
Int'l 413p (+11p)
ale 512p (+10p)
S 484p (+8p)
C 435p (+15p)
P Property 232p (+12p)
ough 400p (+10p)
and 625p (+10p)
an 744p (+11p)
er 385p (+22p)
with 'A' 210p (+20p)
ing Prices...Page 28

INTEREST RATES

Bank Base 11½%
Interbank 11½-11¾%
eligible bills 10½-10¾%
Rate 9½%
Funds 5½-5¾%
Treasury Bills 5.50-5.57%
bonds 9½-9¾%

CURRENCIES

New York
\$ 1.6885
\$ DM 1.7550
\$ Sfr 1.5115
\$ FF 5.9520
\$ Yen 141.55
Index 57.7
SDR 1.79164
SDR 1.83560

GOLD

Fixing:
17.60 pm-£372.20
372.65-373.15 (£223.40)
crk:
5373.25-373.75

ORTH SEA OIL

(Jun) \$18.35 bbl (\$18.30)
2656 latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

33.1 April (1987-100)

New chairman warns of profits fall but vows to maintain payout

Hardman goes after Asda board pressure

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

JOHN Hardman has resigned as chairman and chief executive of Asda, Britain's fourth largest supermarket group, as the result of boardroom pressure. With him has gone Graham Stow, main board director and chief executive of Asda Stores, the subsidiary.

Sir Godfrey Messervy, former chairman and chief executive of Lucas Industries, and a non-executive director of Asda, becomes chairman, and the search is on for a new chief executive. In the meantime, Asda Stores will be run by

Tony Campbell and Richard Harker, the joint managing directors.

Both Mr Hardman and Mr Stow will be entitled to compensation for the loss of office, although Sir Godfrey could not elaborate on the possible size of any golden handshake. Mr Hardman's salary for the year to end April 1990, was £231,000.

Mr Hardman joined Asda as finance director ten years ago, but has been the subject of considerable criticism from institutional investors for a number of ill-judged decisions and a poor trading performance relative to its main

competitors, particularly J Sainsbury and Tesco.

The announcement was accompanied by a warning that profits for the year ended April 27 have fallen. Sir Godfrey said that pre-tax profits, due to be published on July 11, are estimated to be not less than £170 million against £180 million for the previous year. The dividend would, however, be maintained at 4.8p a share with the payment of a 2.95p final.

Sir Godfrey said that the company's parting with Mr Hardman and Mr Stow had been "very amicable" and that the decisions had been taken on a "purely professional basis".

Their departure came after a boardroom decision to split the roles of chairman and chief executive.

Sir Godfrey said: "We had been considering the structure of the board and, in particular, the roles of chairman and chief executive for some time. It has now been decided that these roles should be separated and that the principal responsibility of the group chief executive should be the management of Asda Stores."

Ironically, Sir Godfrey combined both roles at Lucas. "I suppose it makes me some kind of hypocrite, or turncoat," he mused.

The City appeared somewhat surprised at the move. Although it had been critical of Mr Hardman and some of his moves, it had not been prepared for such action, with the preliminary results imminent. The profits estimate is in line with analysts' expectations, although these have been downgraded after presentations by the company.

Asda's profits performance has been abysmal, however, compared with the big two supermarket groups, which have unveiled rises in profits of more than 20 per cent.

It is all so different to the early Eighties, when Asda was achieving huge profit increases in its northern strongholds and first made plans for tackling the giants in the South. Its first big misjudgment, however, was the ambitious merger with MFI in 1985, which had to be unwound a couple of years later.

Then, in 1989, it splashed out £25 million on the former Waring and Gillows stores and then paid Isocoles £705 million for 61 Gateway stores, a deal that is mainly responsible for the group's massive debts, thought to be close to £1 billion.

The relative share prices of Asda, Sainsbury and Tesco over the past five years tell the story. While Asda is more than 20 per cent lower than it was in 1986, the other two have more than doubled.

Asda shares have been the subject of takeover speculation, with Aldi, the German retailer, rumoured to be running an eye over the group as a possible *entree* into the UK.

Mr Hardman said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my ten years at Asda and I am confident that the building blocks are in place for further development in the future."



Parting of the ways: John Hardman, who resigned as Asda chairman yesterday

Manchester United lacks support

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A DISASTROUS first day of dealings in Manchester United shares and the announcement of a 30 per cent take up of the Arsenal bond issue yesterday provided the backdrop to the latest twist in the Tottenham Hotspur affair.

The fate of Tottenham, the FA Cup holders, looked a little more secure as Alan Sugar confirmed that he and Terry Venables, the team manager, have made an offer for the debt-ridden club. Mr Sugar said he would step aside, however, if a better offer was placed on the table by Robert Waring and Gillows stores and then paid Isocoles £705 million for 61 Gateway stores, a deal that is mainly responsible for the group's massive debts, thought to be close to £1 billion.

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Mr Hardman said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my ten years at Asda and I am confident that the building blocks are in place for further development in the future."

Unigate delivers £75m and prepares to divest

By OUR CITY STAFF

UNIGATE, the food and transport group, has put its loss-making poultry and contract car hire operations up for sale, and may be prepared to listen to offers for other parts of the business.

Ross Buckland, the new chief executive, plans to concentrate on the company's food-related businesses. Results for the year to March 31 include a £95 million extraordinary charge, of which £76 million relates to planned divestments.

Pre-tax profits were down from £105.5 million to £75.5 million, trimming earnings from 31.5p to 22.3p. The final dividend is held at 9.6p a share, making an unchanged total of 13.3p for the year.

Unigate's share price rose 12p to 282p.

Tempus, page 27

FLY WITH ARROWS TO A SUCCESSFUL FINANCIAL FUTURE



Due to the unqualified success of this annual competition which supports and recognizes British commercial excellence, we are now pleased to announce

ARROWS 'YOUNG COMPANY OF THE YEAR' 1991 AWARDS

which will be presented later this year at a star-studded Gala Dinner to be held once again at the prestigious Hotel Hermitage, Monte Carlo in the beautiful Principality of Monaco.

The ten finalists and their guests will be flown in champagne style at twice the speed of sound in a SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED CONCORDE. The destination will be NICE on the Cote d'Azur, from where our chartered yacht will add a further touch of luxury as it eases its way across the blue Mediterranean, to the Monte Carlo Marina.

Here a reception will await and time made available to appreciate the delights of this most beautiful city. Later, following Dinner and the Presentations, the finalists will be our overnight guests, before returning to London on Concorde the following day.

ALL THIS AND, AS LAST YEAR, ENTRY IS FREE

ARROWS IN ACTION FOR CHARITY

The Arrows 'Young Company of the Year' Awards 1991 will once again benefit Barnardos in recognition of their excellent work, supporting projects for young people. Do you qualify? If your company was incorporated between 1974 and 1988 and has an annual turnover in excess of £1,000,000, we invite you to seek the recognition your company deserves. Please send for your application package to:

Name _____ Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
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Nature of Business _____ Contact _____
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Telex: 667052. Arrows G. Fax: 061-928 6948

Banks try to peg surge in dollar

By ANATOLE KALITSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

CENTRAL banks tried to rein in the surging dollar in Europe and Japan yesterday, but the intervention made little impression on foreign exchange dealers responding to last Friday's strong American employment figures.

The Bank of Japan intervened in Tokyo when the dollar breached the ¥141 level and was joined by the Bundesbank and other European central banks, which set a temporary ceiling by buying marks at around DM1.77. But dealers said the market's immediate target was to take out this year's dollar high of DM1.78, after which DM1.80 would be an easy objective.

Several dealers said that the market would not be impressed by central bank intervention unless and until the Federal Reserve Bank of New York was spotted selling large

quantities of dollars on behalf of the US Treasury. The American authorities have been notable for their absence from most of the efforts to coordinate international intervention this year.

The mark suffered not only from the dollar's strength, but also from news that Germany's trade balance fell into deficit in April for the first time in a decade. The pan-German trade balance showed a DM1.4 billion deficit in April, compared with a DM2.8 billion mark surplus in March. April imports rose 3.8 per cent, while exports fell 3.9 per cent.

The dollar closed in London at DM1.7690, slightly below its Friday night level in New York. But against the yen, the US currency advanced to ¥141.80, compared with Friday's ¥140.50.

VAT spree was credit-financed

By OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR

A CREDIT-financed spending spree to beat the Budget increase in the value-added tax rate lifted the level of consumer credit outstanding in Britain by £335 million in April, as credit card companies, building societies and finance houses advanced a record total of £4.3 billion in the month.

The £335 million growth of outstanding credit compared with a revised increase of £153 million in March. The April figure for new credit advances, which does not take into account the loans paid off by consumers during the month, was the highest recorded since this series began to be monitored in 1986 and was up sharply compared with the £3.8 billion of credit advanced in March.

Much of the increase in consumer borrowing was due to the use of credit cards. New

credit advanced in April on cards was £2.7 billion, compared with £2.2 billion in March. Credit card debt outstanding increased by £249 million, compared with a rise of £108 million in March.

Analysts were reluctant to read too much into the credit figures because of the distortions created by the late-March surge in sales. Revised figures for retail sales published yesterday with the consumer credit statistics showed that retail sales fell by 3.3 per cent in April, after a jump of 3.6 per cent in March.

Nevertheless, the credit and sales figures did offer further evidence that the recession in the high streets began to bottom out in March and April. April's drop in retail sales was less severe than the 3.5 per cent decline reported in the government's provisional figures for April.

Bellamy sells firm for £1.5m

By MATTHEW BOND

DAVID Bellamy, the Durham botanist famous for his approach to matters natural, will embrace the far from natural world of the public company. Together with partner Brendan Quayle, Dr Bellamy is selling his environmental consultancy to P-E International, for a maximum of £1.5 million.

"I have bought a suit," said Dr Bellamy, clearly relishing a rare, possibly unprecedented, event.

The decision to sell David Bellamy Associates to P-E International, said Dr Bellamy, was taken to motivate the "biological yuppies" who work for the company. "We decided to take this step to give all my bio-yuppies a better career structure," Dr Bellamy believes. P-E's



Going public: David Bellamy and Brendan Quayle

greater financial muscle will allow DBA to tackle some big environmental problems.

"There are immense jobs to be done, especially in Europe and behind the Iron Curtain," Dr Bellamy is particularly concerned about damage that could be done by the emerging

economies of eastern Europe. "I am very worried that we're going to give them the wrong advice and smash up their countryside in the same way we smashed up ours."

Previous clients include Peter de Savary, who DBA advised on his Lands End and

Canvey Island projects. "Lands End is no longer eroding into the sea," said Dr Bellamy. Dr Quayle was more secretive about work being done for ICI, the chemical company now being stalked by Hanson. "We can't talk about that," he said.

The terms of the P-E deal means there is little prospect of either man hanging up their sampling squares for some time. The initial payment of £200,000 will be split between Dr Bellamy and Dr Quayle. The balance of £1.3 million depends on DBA's future profits. Last year DBA made pre-tax profits of £87,000 on turnover of £491,000.

Dr Bellamy says he is ready for the challenges of the future. "The only thing I wish is that I was 30 and not 58. There is going to be an awful lot of work to do."

Directors sell Ram shares

DIRECTORS of Spring Ram Corporation, the bathroom and kitchen products company, placed 28.13 million shares, 7.7 per cent of its issued share capital, in the market at 105p each.

Bill Rooney, chairman, raised £23 million through the sale of 22 million shares, his first disposal since 1986. He retains a 16.9 per cent shareholding and has undertaken not to dispose of more shares for at least 12 months.

Francis Galvin and David Riley, two other directors, sold 701,600 shares and 146,640 shares respectively. Two former directors placed a total of 14 million shares.

Elga rises

Pre-tax profits at Elga Group, the water purification specialist, rose from £1.08 million to £1.31 million in the year to end March, on turnover up 27 per cent at £16.5 million. Earnings per share increased 22 per cent to 8.15p. Shareholders collect a final dividend of 1.9p a share, making a total of 2.5p (2p).

Acal dips

Acal, the electronics and industrial controls supplier, saw pre-tax profits fall to £4.3 million from £4.4m for the year to end March. Sales were up 9 per cent to £59.7 million. A final 3.6p dividend makes 5.4p for the year.

Off the board

Bill Broekhuizen, has resigned from the board of Ferranti International, the defence and electronics group. He was managing director of the commercial and industrial systems divisions.

Chief leaves

Alan Deal has stood down as chief executive of Gowings, the motor distributor and residential parks and fast food operator, which in April announced a £432,000 pre-tax loss for last year.

Somic slumps

Pre-tax profits at Somic, the Preston paper spinner and weaver, slumped to £50,000 from £206,000 in the year to end March after a first-half loss. There was an interim dividend. The final is 1p (2.5p).

Spending spree sets British Land back to £31m

By MATTHEW BOND

BRITISH Land's £460 million spending spree, launched deliberately in the worst commercial property market for nearly two decades, is already beginning to pay dividends.

A valuation for the year to end March has confirmed that the properties bought since the beginning of 1990 are worth more than British Land paid for them.

Many of these acquisitions have been large out-of-town supermarkets, whose resilient capital performance has contributed to the company's provincial portfolio dropping by only 3 per cent over the past two years.

John Riblat, the chairman, said the buying had not necessarily stopped. Although borrowings have risen sharply, the company still has unused facilities of £500 million, he said. "I do not think we would now take a view of the market that related to interest rates. If we saw long-term value we would buy it."

With 47 per cent of the £1.5 billion portfolio now in the provinces, the overall decline was held to just 9.6 per cent, despite far larger falls in the company's London office properties. Net assets per share

declined 18.4 per cent to 401p. City offices, including the company's flagship Plantation House, have followed the 12 per cent fall of the year to end March 1990 with an even bigger decline of 18 per cent. The decline in the rest of London has also speeded up, with 1990's 8 per cent fall followed by a 1991 slide of 14 per cent.

The retail bias of recent acquisitions (the company has spent more than £300 million buying supermarkets from J Sainsbury alone) has changed the structure of BL's portfolio. Retail now accounts for 35 per cent, compared with 23 per cent a year ago, while offices fell from 68 per cent to 58 per cent and industrial properties from 8 per cent to 7 per cent.

Inevitably, the pace of acquisition has raised BL's borrowings. Interest charges doubled to £60.1 million and resulted in pre-tax profits for the year to end-March falling from £44.8 million to £31.0 million. Borrowings, up from £501 million to £666 million, give gearing of 72 per cent, compared with 60 per cent a year ago.

A final dividend of 3.87p (5.25p) is being paid to give a total of 5.75p (5.25p).

John Gainham, Anglo United's managing director, says a rights issue was preferable to making "fire sales" of peripheral interests, the sale of which is nearly completed.

Anglo United reported turnover of £576.6 million (£534.2 million) for the year ended March, and a pre-tax profit of £15.8 million (£15.3 million) after an interest charge of £42.9 million (£26.3 million). The 1990-1 results include a £7.84 million profit from the sale of property in Wandsworth, London.

The company is raising the final dividend from 1.2p to 1.4p a share, making 1.6p (1.4p). Net earnings fell from 6.2p to 5.3p a share, mainly because Coalite was included for only eight months of the previous financial year.

Anglo United has raised a net £218 million from the sale of several non-core Coalite businesses, and says there is now only a handful of businesses that may be sold. Promotion of the Coalite name continued with sponsorship of the World Snooker Championship, and the three-year support programme for the St Leger.

Profits at the 100 per cent-owned Falkland Islands Company were down from £2.4 million to £600,000 because of lower world wool prices. Mr Gainham said Anglo United retains trading and retail interests in the Falklands despite land sales. The shares were 1 1/4p easier at 36 1/4p.

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Society rises 22% despite £95m bad debt provisions

Nationwide advances to £285m

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE Nationwide Building Society has reported a 22 per cent rise in profits to £284.7 million last year and a dramatic improvement in new business during the year.

The second biggest society was able to report the profit rise despite an increase in bad debt provisions to £94.8 million during the year. The Halifax Building Society's profits rose 11 per cent during the year and the Abbey National's 16 per cent.

Mortgage business accounted for £42.3 million of the Nationwide's provisions - almost double the previous year's £22.2 million. Commercial lending accounted for £46.6 million, compared with £29.4 million. Consumer loans, including overdrafts, had provisions of £5.9 million, down from £13.1 million.

During the year, the society repossessed 4,253 properties, compared with 1,640 in 1989. Serious arrears more than tripled from 0.15 per cent of the mortgage book to 0.5 per cent, including repossession. Another 7,600 borrowers were more than a year in arrears.

The commercial provisions include sums for "one or two builders" which are still trading. In the past, the society has assessed the viability of projects rather than that of the firms undertaking them.

Nationwide Estate Agents lost £21 million, compared with £22.8 million in 1989 and continued to be an important



Tim Melville-Ross: 'The benefits of the investment we have made are beginning to come through'

source of mortgage business. Nationwide Housing Trust, the housing development arm, lost £5.5 million, and will be wound down as a separate subsidiary.

The society boosted its

mortgage advances to £3.5 billion, up 50.7 per cent, and retail receipts rose 76 per cent to £2.3 billion.

Tim Melville-Ross, chief executive, said this partly reflected a relatively low mar-

ket share in 1989 when the society was concentrating on reducing costs. "The benefits of the investment we have made in recent years in creating a leaner, fitter organisation are beginning to come

through," Mr Melville-Ross added.

Non-interest income, including insurance commission, rose 23 per cent to £197 million. The cost-to-income ratio fell to 56.5 per cent (61 per cent).

Anglo United calls for £25m

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ANGLO United, the fuel distribution group that sold land in the Falkland Islands for £5.7 million in April, is raising £25 million net via a one-for-three rights issue at 31p a share. The money will repay the outstanding £23 million of a £200 million bridging loan that helped finance the £478 million purchase of Coalite in 1989.

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Eurocamp seeks full listing

EUROCAMP, the self-drive camping holiday firm, is to seek a full listing by way of a public offer and institutional placing within four weeks (Martin Barrow writes).

The company is expected to be valued at £50 million to £60 million, and is likely to raise up to £30 million with the flotation. In 1988, Eurocamp was acquired by its management from Next, supported by Barclays Development Capital, for £32 million.

Operating profits have grown from almost £2 million in 1987 to £7.71 million last year. A profit forecast to accompany the flotation, sponsored by Lazard Brothers, will show further growth.

Southend raises Frogmore offer

By OUR CITY STAFF

SOUTHEND Property Holdings has raised its contested bid for Frogmore Estates and declared the new £140 million offer final unless a third party intervenes with higher terms.

Frogmore shares rose 20p to 335p on the Southend offer, then fell back to 319p, a 4p advance on the day, as dealers were disappointed by the new bid's low cash proportion. The Frogmore board is still rejecting the bid. Dennis Cope, Frogmore's chairman, said the new offer was only 3 per cent higher than Southend's original bid, which valued each Frogmore share at 339.5p.

Southend's raised offer, made up of ordinary shares, convertible preference shares and cash, values each Frogmore share at 350p. Frogmore shareholders are offered for every ten ordinary shares they own, 9.17 new Southend shares, 23.57 new convertible preference shares and 200p in cash.

Malcolm Dagul, Southend's chairman, said the convertible preference issue, which will have a net dividend of 8p a share, was "the next best thing to cash". Underwriting a full cash alternative would have been too expensive, he said.

Southend owns or has acceptances for 10.2 per cent of Frogmore shares. Southend's shares fell 2p to 88p.

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Vibroplant profits drop 55%

By JONATHAN PRYNN



Dividend held despite setback: Jeremy Pilkington (right) with Neil Partridge, the finance director

A SHARP fall in construction activity in Britain, coupled with a less severe decline in America, sent pre-tax profits at Vibroplant, the plant hire company, tumbling by 55 per cent to £6.19 million in the year to end March.

Profits are after an interest charge of £4.96 million (£2.81 million), reflecting higher gearing of 87 per cent (75 per cent). A maintained final dividend of 87p makes an unchanged total of 3.6p. Earnings per share slumped to 9.84p (20.04p), but the cashflow per share of 65p was maintained at 90 per cent of the previous year's 72p.

Although British revenues were steady at £40.3 million, pressure on margins resulted in pre-tax profits before falling from £11.48 million to £4.15 million. Jeremy Pilkington, the chairman and chief executive, said that almost all regions were affected.

A recovery in Britain is not now expected until next year. The setback in America, where taxable profits fell from £2.53 million to £2.04 million, was less severe.

However, conditions are still difficult in California and Florida, two of Vibroplant's most important markets.

Alliance chases defaulters

By SARA MCCONNELL

ALLIANCE & Leicester, the third largest building society, is the latest lender to appoint debt collectors to chase "irresponsible borrowers", who return the keys after the value of property has fallen below the level of their outstanding mortgage.

At least two other lenders, the Halifax and the Woolwich, have already started using agencies to chase defaulters. But the Nationwide, the second largest, stopped using debt collectors after an initial trial because the return did not justify the costs.

Debt collectors appointed by the Alliance & Leicester will chase hundreds of defaulters who owe £6,000 or more - the difference between the amount the property is sold for and the outstanding mortgage. Cliff Harley, an assistant

general manager, said: "We see this move as a deterrent. We will pass over information to the agency when losses are more than £6,000. The agency will establish background information about other debts and what the borrower's attitude is to these."

He stressed: "We are not talking about honest families who have made every effort to manage their finances. The people we intend to pursue are those who make a cynical decision to duck out of their responsibilities."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders gave the formal go-ahead last week to the setting up of a central register of defaulters. A spokeswoman said: "The register will alert lenders to any repossession not declared on the mortgage application."

years of 1988-9. They usually live in the Southeast and have borrowed 90 per cent or more of the value of the property. Some borrowers with large loans were covered by mortgage indemnity insurance and could also be pursued through the courts by the insurer after any claim by the lender.

Tim Melville-Ross, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "We experimented with a pilot scheme last year but we found it did not work. The cost is out of proportion to the money collected."

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Brent Walker tries to pre-empt revolt

EXECUTIVES of Brent Walker spent yesterday trying to "put some backbone" into bondholders who threaten to vote against proposals to reconstruct the debt-laden company. BW's bankers will meet tonight to decide whether to implement the first stage of the plan to give BW £30 million of vital working capital. While the banks are expected to sanction the new capital, some bondholders are balking at the proposal that will convert the majority of their bonds into ordinary shares and the rest into redeemable preference.

BW and its bankers argue that rejection of the proposals would push the company into receivership and that may leave bondholders with nothing. George Walker, the former chairman, has about 30 per cent of the bonds. Lourho holds another 5 per cent while Michael Smurfit and his company, Jefferson Smurfit, own 25 per cent.

London Scottish slips

LONDON Scottish Bank, the lending institution specialising in small personal loans, has announced a 10 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.64 million for the six months to end April. Additional provisions of £340,000 have been made against payment arrears, though debts written off as irrecoverable were reduced by £339,000. The interim dividend stays at 0.875p.

Faupel rises to £1.12m

FAUPEL Trading Group, the USM-quoted importer of textile goods mainly from China, made pre-tax profits of £1.12 million for the year to end March (£1.02 million) on turnover of £21.3 million (£18.5 million). The final dividend is held at 3.05p a share, making an unchanged 4.9p for the year. Faupel has bought a 19.6 per cent stake in New World Electronic Products.

Techniques leaps 64p

SHARES in Control Techniques, the Welsh electronic controls group, soared from 164p to 238p on news that Emerson Electric, an American electronics multi-national, will take a 29.99 per cent stake.

Emerson is buying 7 million new shares and is making a tender offer for 3.8 million existing shares at 320p. In return for the new shares, Control Techniques will take an 80 per cent stake in ICD Drives, a New York subsidiary of Emerson. Control Techniques announced pre-tax profits for the six months to end March of £1.1 million (£2.6 million). The interim dividend is maintained at 2.15p.

Rowe falls to £1.35m

ROWE Evans Investments suffered from weak palm oil and rubber prices in the year ended December, and pre-tax profits fell from £3.3 million to £1.35 million. The dividend for the year is cut from 2p to 1p a share. Rowe Evans says values of its Indonesian and Malaysian estates are well above book value, as is the value of its associated investments.

Worthington improves

AJ WORTHINGTON (Holdings), the button and textile threads company, says it has a healthy order book though current trading conditions are not easy. Pre-tax profits in the year to end March were £

WALKER TRIES
EMPT REVOLT

Walker tried to get shareholders to agree to a new deal but they refused to do so. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out.

HAUPEL RISES
TO £1.12M

Haupel has risen to £1.12m. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out.

WORTHINGTON
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Worthington has improved. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out.

ILLS LIQUIDATE

ILLS has liquidated. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out.

IN IMPORT
ES GERMAN
INTO DEFICIT

IN IMPORT has increased. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out. The company is now in a state of financial crisis and is looking for a way out.

Bankers take another beating

Nobody loves a money lender even in good times. Britain's bankers have hardly been surprised to find the old adage just as true at the depths of a particularly sharp and sudden recession. The future over small business loans is sure to be rekindled by the latest report from the Bank for International Settlements. This exclusive organisation, the central bankers' bank, has stoked up the flames with its finding that British banks have net interest margins wider than almost all their international counterparts.

thus their continued ability to lend. In any case, apparently high net margins can easily be distorted by other factors. They are certainly associated with economies suffering high nominal interest rates and high inflation rates, both features of the British banking scene last year. As they stand, the BIS figures need much more amplification before they can be taken at face value. It is one thing to survey lending rates and entirely another to attempt to compute the other side of the equation, the cost of money. Once the so called endowment effect, the benefit gained by banks from balances held in non-interest bearing accounts, was a considerable element in clearing banks' income. These days, the proliferation of interest-bearing current accounts has severely curtailed the effect while making it more difficult to compute. The BIS comparisons, especially in calculating returns on assets, are bedevilled by differences in accounting practice around the world, and are much more use in indicating trends within countries rather than providing clear-cut international yardsticks. From this standpoint, the BIS shows that rates of return on banking assets were shredded last year, falling from 1.32 per cent in 1989 to just 0.51 per cent. Net margins fell from 3.25 per cent to just 3 per cent.

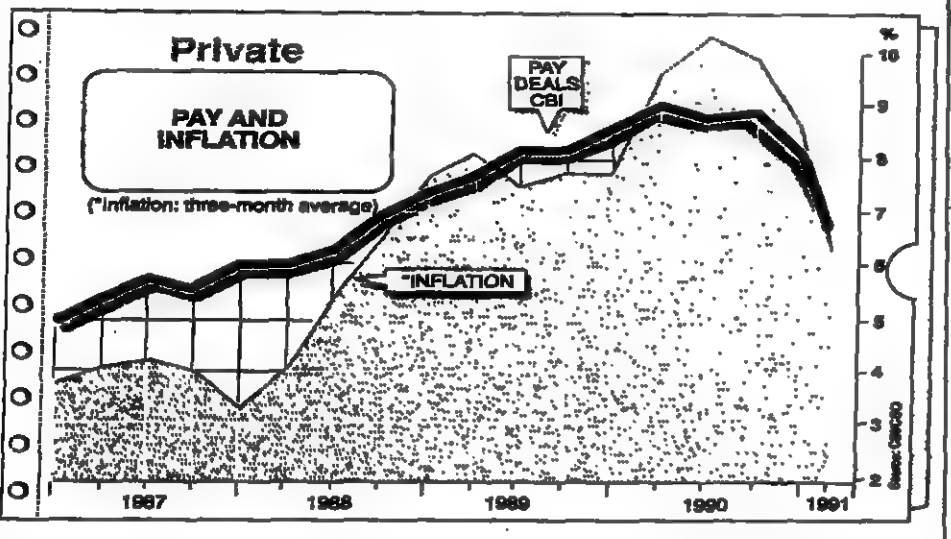
which may be linked to absolute profits, earnings per share growth or some more complex measure, result in tortuous confusion. Timing may add to this, most obviously in the case of the much criticised but modestly paid Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Ian MacLaurin, of Tesco, received a bonus of about £1 million on the basis of the previous three years performance. Tesco's profits are, however, still rising sharply. In other cases, such as Prudential's Mick Newmarch, pay rises geared to promotion or past performance show up just as profits begin to crumble, annoying shareholders as well as leavers. The M&S directors, like many others, have got their timing right. Having had big rises in the good years, they have fared well in terms of both pay and publicity. The most extraordinary fact to show up under the microscope now being focused on directors

Directors pay

Marks & Spencer is smarting at receiving far worse publicity for cutting a few hundred jobs than most industrial companies do for axing as many thousands. In that context, pay cuts for four top directors will certainly go down well as an example of responsibility and sharing the burden. Not that this necessarily had anything to do with it. The operation of incentive and bonus schemes,

Inflating the importance of lower pay settlements

LONG battered by the fallout from rising unemployment - due to increase again this week - government ministers could barely contain themselves yesterday at the Confederation of British Industry's report that pay settlements in manufacturing industry are showing their biggest fall for more than a decade, and are set to drop even lower.



Michael Howard, the employment secretary, described it as "good news". He said: "It shows that people are beginning to understand the need to secure long-term competitiveness in our economy." Employees, he said, were "appreciating that there is not much point in getting what might appear to be a large wage increase in money terms this week if it puts their jobs in peril the following week."

while they have been declining, pay settlements as measured by the CBI have, over recent years, had a distinctly patchy relationship with inflation. Take the first half of last year. For both quarters, pay deals were still running ahead of inflation, even though inflation was rising sharply. During the second half, price inflation overtook pay settlements in the traditional pay-inflation leapfrogging.

The first-quarter figures for this year not only measure a large fall, but are actually running below inflation (8.1 per cent compared with 8.7 per cent). However, the 6.8 per cent figure for settlements in April trumpeted by the CBI yesterday, and widely misreported as being the largest fall for a decade, is, in fact, running above price inflation of 6.4 per cent for the same month.

With about 70 per cent of the April settlements recorded in the CBI's figure for the month, future revisions could change it, though CBI analysts insist that pay deals were set at this level in April before the April RPI figure was known, and that since then, settlements have if anything been even lower.

Or are they? While the CBI's pay statistics themselves are reliable, their presentation has been criticised, at times, for putting the best and most helpful gloss on the raw data. All agencies producing statistics tend to play that game to some extent. The government's monthly presentation of the unemployment figures is a masterpiece of this kind, but some CBI insiders involved in the databank figures have claimed privately that they have at times been pressured to make adjustments to the data to allow a particular point to be made.

Leaving aside whether such clearly questionable tactics have occurred, the attached graph indicates that even

and, therefore, underplay the improvements in productivity in the economy. Productivity growth, according to the CBI, has fallen back. In the first three months of 1990, for instance, it was running at 6.1 per cent, while for the same period this year it was 3.4 per cent. But expectations among CBI members, as recorded by the databank, are high - 5.2 per cent over the next 12 months - and if achieved, will significantly close the gap between pay and productivity, making companies', and more widely Brit-

ain's, unit labour cost increases competitive with those in other countries. Though a more difficult message to put over, that is the real significance of the CBI's latest findings. The straight level of pay settlements, especially when set against a moving inflation target, tell only part of the story - a story made even more partial by the fact that the CBI's data covers only manufacturing, which forms about a fifth of the workforce. Service sector settlements are still higher, and push up the overall level of pay deals across the economy, as reported by such independent research companies as Incomes Data Services, who put settlements now in a range of about 7 to 9.9 per cent.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

CSFB goes fishing

CSFB, the securities trading arm of Credit Suisse, is on the brink of filling the hole left when Nigel Pilkington, head of UK equity sales, walked out in March. It is in discussions with Patrick de Gentile-Williams, who has resigned from James Capel where he was head of continental European options market-making. Hans Joerg-Rudloff, the CSFB chairman, is keen to recruit de Gentile-Williams, who spent five years at Capel. Pilkington left the firm with Richard Briance, former head of gilts, who had been running the gilts and equities division with David Benson, former head of arbitrage. CSFB would not say whether the deal would go ahead, but agreed de Gentile-Williams would be a sizeable catch.

Plain sailing

THERE was joy in the offices of Kleinwort Benson yesterday after a team of intrepid yachtsmen won a weekend sailing challenge off the Isle of Wight. The team, which beat rivals from Warburgs and Lazards among others, was led by Simon Erwin, part of the top-rated Exel oil and gas team led by Mehdi Varzi. He now has a 2 ft brass statue to show for his efforts. "It looks like nothing on earth," says Erwin, who joined the firm three years ago after a spell

Mozzarella option

FORGET the City - there is real money to be made out there. The living proof is Francesco Moncada di Paterno, a Sicilian aristocrat, who was a UK equity salesman at UBS Phillips & Drew until January. He has now become a household name in another sector - by importing his own brand of mozzarella cheese, *Franceschiello*, which is flown in weekly from the town of Aversa, near Naples. "It's the first decent mozzarella in 27 years," says Lorenzo Berni of San Lorenzo, which joins Harry's Bar, Mark's Club and The Savoy in stocking the delicacy.

China mugs

LEHMAN Brothers is handing out two white china mugs to each of its 1,000 employees to replace the usual plastic cups that, it says, do little for the environment.

Unigate prepares to clear the table of all but food

ROSS Buckland has chosen to clear the decks at Unigate at the first opportunity. His resolve will have been strengthened by the impact of the recession on the group's non-food interests, but many feel the decision was long overdue. The implication of Mr Buckland's first statement as chief executive is that virtually all the group's non-food interests are up for sale, although the only two to have been identified so far are the JP Wood chicken business, growing more volatile by the year, and the car contract hire operation. These were the two divisions attracting recent speculation. The £76 million provision for closures and disposals, however, clearly includes other areas of non-core activities and Mr Buckland is making it pretty clear that, in future, the word "core" will refer to little outside the food industry. Questions must be raised over the remaining vehicle interests and the disappointing Giltspur exhibition services arm. Encouragingly the group has not been tempted to wrap trading losses into the below-the-line extraordinary, and a £5.2 million hit on future vehicle disposal losses is provided for against operating profits, which suggests that trading last year was not quite as bad as some had feared. It may be some time before buyers can be found but the

TEMPUS

board is adamant its provisions will prove adequate. Unigate emerges from this kitchen-sink strategy in impressively good shape. Net debt increases by around £10 million to £51.7 million, nudging gearing up from 9 to 14 per cent. Interest cover is a comfortable 6.4 times and, but for the one-off double tax payment, cashflow would have been positive last year. It leaves plenty of scope for the increased support Unigate plans for its brand names, and for expansion in food. Unless there is an acquisition the market way well take some convincing that the existing food businesses, notably dairies and fresh foods, have the potential for the kind of growth that Mr Buckland believes he can deliver. Investors must expect a poor interim result and a final pre-tax profit of around £83 million this year, says Tim Potter and Smith New Court. At 282p, the shares sell for a

pay is the huge and apparently random variation in pay levels of top executives. Despite big increases in recent years, the average of top pay in Britain is mid-way in the European league, net of tax. Chairmen or chief executives of comparably sized companies in the middle of the top hundred may, however, earn anything between £200,000 and £1 million. And this variation does not have much to do with long-term performance. What are the much-vaunted pay committees of non-executive directors doing? The heads of privatised groups, banks and big oil companies generally suffer in relative terms. They are more likely to be damned over pay rises. In many cases, the public regards good profit increases from such companies as a scandal rather than the result of skillful management. That should not be a guide. But some rationalisation is needed. Pay committees should relate basic top pay to company size, tempered by the ability of individuals to affect movements in profits.

Advertisement for Arlington developments. It shows a map of the South East of England with locations marked: BIRMINGHAM, LEEDS, KETTERING, NEWBURY, MARLOW, BRISTOL, SOUTHAMPTON, and READING. The text says: "Arlington offers a vision of a better business environment. Organisations flourish in the right environment; where people are not weighed down by commuting or the constraints of outdated buildings and facilities. Arlington specialises in creating high quality business, office and industrial parks where companies thrive. It starts at our unequalled choice of locations. All are in prime positions with excellent motorway connections and near major centres. It's reflected in our master planning. Each building is carefully sited within an attractively landscaped environment, with ample parking, extensive services and appropriate amenities. It's shown in the attention to detail of our project management teams who will finish your building to the highest standards, on time and to budget. And in the management services that care for every Arlington development. Our vision of a better business environment is shared by the hundreds of leading companies who have already joined us. You'll see it in the performance of your people and your business when you move to an Arlington development."

Form for requesting a brochure and location facts. It includes fields for Name, Position, Company, Address, Postcode, and Tel. It also includes a section for "I am interested in a better business environment. Please send me a complimentary copy of:" with checkboxes for "Profile" - VHS video (12 mins) and "Profile" - Brochure and location facts sheets. The form is signed by Tony Sanders, Arlington Property Developments Ltd, 100 Woodhouse, 14-16 Garton Street, London SW1H 0QY. Tel: 071-231 0294. Fax: 071-232 2755.

Robert Silver outlines proposals from a Jewish group to make insults an offence



Racial hatred rears its ugly head again: a cemetery in Manchester was one of several desecrated in a recent outbreak of anti-Jewish feeling

Incitement to racial hatred is back in the public eye. Lady Birdwood is due in court today accused of distributing anti-Semitic material, and proceedings are being brought against the Conservative Bill Galbraith, who attacked Cheltenham's black candidate, John Taylor. For four years the defence committee of the Jewish Board of Deputies has often cited potential cases for the Attorney-General to act on, frequently rejected because of the difficulty of obtaining evidence.

The board has now issued a report by a sub-committee chaired by Eldred Tabachnik, QC, which makes far-reaching proposals. In particular, the report proposes a new offence that would make insults to ethnic groups an offence of criminal defamation.

The proposals have been accepted, subject to further debate on detail by deputies. Once the proposals have been endorsed, the board is to talk to other ethnic groups and the Commission for Racial Equality, then begin a campaign for radical changes to the Public Order Act and a new law to penalise racial "vilification", a lesser form of attack than incitement to racial hatred.

The idea of criminal defamation bypasses public order and aims to remedy the pain and distress of ethnic groups under pressure.

In 1985, three out of seven prosecutions brought for racial hatred were successful, and in 1986, ten out of 12 succeeded. Then with the Public Order Act 1986, which came into force in April 1987, the statutory umbrella for incitement shifted from the Race Relations Act. None was brought in 1987, but in 1988 and 1989, three prosecutions were successfully brought over anti-black material. As late as 1990 the first prosecutions under the act alleging anti-

Ban race gibes with new law

Jewish conduct were started. They are now awaiting trial.

Under the Public Order Act, a person offends by using "threatening, abusive or insulting" words or acts either if he intends to stir up hatred or if, in the context, hatred is likely to occur. Before the act, only the second applied. The Attorney-General decides on prosecution. The police investigate and a special division of the Crown Prosecution Service looks at the evidence.

Cases where there is a possibility of prosecution are referred to the Attorney-General. The same test applies as for other prosecutions: a realistic prospect of conviction and the public interest.

Despite the stronger law, the state has been slow to act. The main problem has been securing the evidence. One stumbling block has been cases where there are investigative problems - leads, for instance, that go nowhere, or pamphlets with false names and addresses. Prosecutions have not been brought in cases in which the language used is considered to fail the strict test of the act.

The board is worried by the spread of anti-Semitism in Europe, including Britain. Jewish children have been attacked on the way to school, cemeteries desecrated and synagogues daubed with swastikas. The type of material raised with the Attorney-General includes anti-Zionist tracts circulating among British Muslims shading into

anti-Semitism, reprints of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, hate propaganda given out at soccer matches and "holocaust revisionist" material. Revisionists say the figure of six million deaths is a Zionist fiction, which blackmailed the Germans into giving cash compensation to Israel.

The key changes to the Public Order Act sought by the report are a deletion of the phrase "threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour", seen as an obstacle to convictions, given the sensitive verbal antennae of juries; a new test for the risks of potential incitement, met if hatred only "may" result, not "is likely to"; and the replacement of "hatred" by "ill-will" or "hostility".

The report also wants the final say shifted from the Attorney-General to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The risk for the board is that even after these changes the act may be a dead letter. It aims to deal with "public order", although that phrase is not in the indictment.

The present act aims to strike a balance between the desire for maximum freedom of expression with the wish to ensure that public order does not suffer through uninhibited expression. In other words, the basis of curbs on free speech is the idea that racist language "poisons" the social atmosphere.

That is highly contentious.

Judges, juries and the Attorney-General, the board argues, see trials in the light of public order. The proposed law is therefore aimed at removing that premise.

The report rejects the idea of a civil remedy for group libel to allow, say, newspapers or magazines to sue on behalf of ethnic minorities. It is hard to say which bodies could bring an action, other than the Jewish community, and there is no obvious test for damages. Truth is a libel defence and would lead to bizarre trial debates on the merits of claims, say, that "Jews are liars" or "blacks are stupid".

Mr Tabachnik says: "A high ratio of the material I saw would, I felt, have stirred up racial hatred. The authorities take a different view. We adapted the detail of our proposals to the Attorney-General's explanations."

The projected law would ban verbal, written or pictorial material that "vilifies, threatens, abuses, insults or exposes... a racial group to hatred or contempt". It does not add "ridicule". A strict test of intention is added to favour free speech. An audit of harm to reputation and feelings would be built in.

Decisions to act under a new law would be for the state. Private action risks a flood of failed trivial cases - and martyrs. One defence, akin to libel's fair comment on an issue of public interest, would allow, say, serious arguments for repatriation. Another is to

protect academic work or analysis of "lower" Afro-Asian IQs. Mr Tabachnik rejects a let-out for artistic merit on the lines of obscenity. T.S. Eliot wrote in 1920: "The race is underneath the lot, the Jew is underneath the lot." Mr Tabachnik says: "If that came out under a new law, the state would seriously have to look at a prosecution. Graciously abuse by a famous literary figure is more dangerous, not less. It makes anti-Semitism respectable."

The report's authors, aware that Jews count as an ethnic group under British law, do not wish to defend religious communities in general. Nor do they think other kinds of groups under attack, such as homosexuals or Freemasons, run the risks that apply to Jews, blacks and Asians.

Mr Tabachnik draws the force of his case from the reality of an immediate social problem, not abstract legal theory. Should we pass laws to stop unpleasant views gaining currency? If the Jewish deputies run a campaign, argument will flow.

● The author is a non-practising barrister and freelance writer

Negative side of a positive policy

THE Bar Council approved in principle a new race relations policy last month. Every set of barristers' chambers should try to recruit 5 per cent of its lawyers from ethnic minorities. At the same time, suppliers of business, such as local authorities and the Crown Prosecution Service, will be encouraged to distribute 5 per cent of work to ethnic minority barristers. The Bar Council will consider details next month. Before damaging the interests of the Bar, and of black barristers, the Bar Council should reconsider its strategy.

The Bar has not always had an enlightened approach to equal opportunities. In 1903, the refusal of Gray's Inn to call Bertha Cave to the Bar because of her sex was upheld by a tribunal of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice and five other judges. Until fairly recently, the Bar's record on race relations was a disgrace.

In 1968, Michael Zander wrote that it was "virtually impossible for coloured barristers to find chambers that will give them pupils". The 1979 Royal Commission on Legal Services - very far from a radical body - was highly critical of the Bar's treatment of black barristers. The commission recommended that the Bar create a committee to promote equal opportunities, that the committee compile and update detailed statistical information, and that the Bar ensure "that places should be found for members of ethnic minorities" and "strong guidance" be given by the Bar to its members about the evils of race discrimination. "A major effort by the Bar is called for to improve the position," the commission said.

The Bar did set up such a committee, which has done admirable work, to a large extent in the face of ignorant opposition from diarch elements.

Significant changes have been made, in principle and in practice. Last year, the Race Relations Act 1976 was amended to prohibit race discrimination by or in relation to the professional activities of barristers. This amendment makes the Bar's new policy one of doubtful legality in so far as it encourages awarding benefits to barristers by reference to their race. The Bar's code of conduct also now contains a commitment to non-discrimination.

The most encouraging development of all is that black barristers are beginning to win professional distinction and the respect of their colleagues and the judiciary. For example, two lawyers from ethnic minorities were appointed Queen's Counsel this year. An increasing number of young black barristers are being recruited, on their merits, by chambers where a black face was

previously not seen. There may remain one or two chambers that would still refuse today to consider a qualified black applicant, as occurred a decade ago, because, in the words of the head of chambers to a woman member, "it is bad enough having you". In the main, however, these are yesterday's problems.

Among the many advantages of the reforms of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to the legal profession, and the challenge of greater competition that they involve, will be that they will make all sets of chambers eager to recruit skilled lawyers, and will encourage suppliers of legal business to consider the ability of lawyers to provide an adequate service, whatever the colour of their skin.

Those chambers and those solicitors who select barristers other than on the basis of talent will soon realise the real lesson of anti-discrimination law: that an equal opportunities policy is essential to ensure that you make best use of the available human resources. Whatever the problems faced by black barristers - and they are not to be underestimated - positive discrimination is not the answer, whether it takes the form of quotas or targets. Positive discrimination is unfair to the white student from a disadvantaged background by unjustly encouraging chambers, and suppliers of briefs, to select black lawyers who would otherwise be rightly rejected on their merits, and it is demeaning to the ambitious and talented black barrister who will wrongly be suspected of being patronised because of his race. Furthermore, positive discrimination is unprincipled by proceeding on the erroneous assumption that if 5 per cent of Bar students are from ethnic minorities, then 5 per cent of places in chambers should be occupied by them and 5 per cent of work done by them. As American lawyers put it to witnesses in cross-examination, we should make room for the possibility that some of the black barristers who cannot find room in integrated chambers and who cannot obtain work are simply not very good.

Positive discrimination of any sort is an erroneous and unnecessary policy to ensure that ethnic minority barristers enjoy that to which they are entitled and that which the Bar must remain vigilant to be certain they receive: the chance to make it on their merits, irrespective of race, to receive the number and proportion of places in chambers, and the amount of work, that their talents deserve. Anything less, and anything more, is unacceptable.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK

Partners earning a million

SALARIES of American lawyers in 1991 have remained almost static, the New York-based *National Law Journal* recently said in its annual survey, "What Lawyers Earn" - leaving aside, of course, the hundreds of associates and partners who have been told to clear their desks as the recession bites. A first-year lawyer at the 132-partner Shearman & Sterling, a leading New York firm, still starts on \$83,000. Those lucky enough to make it to partnership take their portion of the firm's 1990 profit of \$113 million generated from \$299 million in gross revenues. Once the adjustment is made for seniority, the top layer of partners at the firm took home more than \$1 million.

Job-savers

A GOVERNMENT defeat in the Lords last week will require the new youth courts to hold at least one evening or weekend sitting if they consider that to make parents regularly attend with their children in normal court hours could jeopardise their jobs. This was timely in the wake of the Bar Council's announcement that it is considering night courts. The government was defeated during the closing stages of the criminal justice bill in the Lords on an amendment moved by Baroness Faithfull, the Conservative peer, with the backing of members of the

INNS AND OUTS

all-party penal affairs group. The Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks' Society have expressed concern that the bill's requirement for parents to attend court with their children would put jobs at risk. In the Lords Baroness Faithfull argued that youth courts should follow the Scottish children's panels in holding regular evening sessions and making appointments to ensure that parents can attend.

Search alert

BANKING lawyers should stand by their telephones. Peter Briant, from the head-hunting firm Goddard Kay Rogers, has been calling selected partners on behalf of a London law firm with more than 100 partners to recruit an experienced banking partner. He warned, however, GKR's Sir John Trelawney was cited in *The Times* in January 1989 as one of Britain's leading experts in finding top lawyers. He said then: "By and large, I find that law firms are neither quick nor decisive in the way they act." Especially when it comes to the question of hiring a partner. The target lawyer is normally held in high regard by his or her colleagues and the hunter must be prepared to offer cast-iron guarantees about the new recruit's prospects, which usually take innumerable partnership meetings to agree. Although the firm on the prowl is not known, the use of the term "100-partner" seems to narrow the field to Linklaters & Paines, Clifford

Chance, Lovell White & Durrant, Freshfields, Simmons & Simmons and Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens.

French lesson

MORE than 200,000 Britons own second homes in France and the Law Society estimates this will double by 2000. Buying, however, is not always straightforward - hence a new publication from the society's journal, the *Law Society Gazette*, called "Property in France". This covers French planning laws, rules on raising a mortgage, various forms of contract, local searches and enquiries, and methods of joint ownership.



Inquest appeal

ONE near-casualty of the debacle over the London boroughs grant scheme budget this year is the campaign group Inquest set up 11 years ago to campaign against deaths in prison and police custody and for changes in the coroner's court system. The group has publicised inadequacies in the prison medical service and many deaths in custody, including the rash of

suicides by young people. The group also provides free legal representation at inquests, for which no legal aid is available, and recently collaborated with the National Association of Probation Officers to draft the prisoners' health care bill recommending abolition of the prison medical service and its replacement by NHS care. A number of the submissions on suicide and self-injury in prisons appeared in Judge Tatum's 1990 report, but despite a growing caseload, and a prominent national profile, the group has received only six months' grant from the scheme sufficient to fund only its London work and must spend valuable time making a fresh application for funds in September. The group, which is urgently seeking funds, is at Alexander National House, Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

A dozen down

THE West End firm Nabarro Nathanson has said it is laying off 12 assistant solicitors. Others must be looking for a move because the recruitment firms say they have 30 Nabarro assistants on their files seeking jobs. The lawyers being laid off are mainly in Nabarro's property and company and commercial departments. All have been told that in three months' time they will get three months' notice if they have not found jobs. For some reason, the firm insists it has not made them redundant as such, which is more a matter of semantics than fact. Making the whole thing public before the official notice period bites is of little help to the assistants seeking a job.

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Talks that keep you out of court

Mediation must be taken seriously as a means of settling disputes. It is now up to clients to persuade solicitors, Edward Fennell writes

Details of the new register of the British Academy of Experts' approved mediators were announced at the organisation's annual dinner by Lord Mackenzie-Stuart, the president, and Michael Cohen, the chairman. From an initial list of 30 mediators, the number is expected to grow rapidly to several hundred. This expansion is a sign that mediation is now something that has to be taken seriously.

"Ninety per cent of litigation is settled before going to court and nine out of ten cases of what is left are resolved at the door of the court," says Mr Cohen, who is a barrister. "So just 1 per cent of cases are actually settled by the tribunal. Yet to get to that stage a vast amount of lawyers' time and costs have been expended to achieve something that is settled out of court in any case. Mediation offers a faster and cheaper route to the same solution." The growing interest in mediation and alternative dispute resolution reflects the consumers' revolt against the delays and expense of conventional litigation.

Some "heavy lifting" solicitors might see it as a threat. However, a small but growing number of rank-and-file law firms see it as a service needed by their clients, corporate and private. "To some extent it is a question of commercial versus ethical issues," Mr Cohen says. "Mediation can offer a satisfactory and cheap solution to most people's problems. The question now is whether

solicitors will support it and encourage clients to use it. We at the British Academy of Experts are trying to educate the public so that they demand it without waiting for their solicitors to suggest it."

Experience abroad, especially in north America, suggests that mediation can be highly successful. In British Columbia, for example, almost all mediation cases are satisfactorily resolved.

"What the majority of litigants want more than anything else is a resolution of their case," Mr Cohen says. "However, in the conventional system there is no way of ending it quickly without giving in. Mediation offers a

Mr Cohen says. "It is not the sort of thing that everybody is cut out to do."

The academy is not the only organisation to offer a mediation service. Already some of the disputes between names at Lloyd's, for example, have been resolved through mediation under the chairmanship of a QC, and James R. Knowles, the construction contract consultant, offers a nationwide mediation service for the construction industry through its local offices.

Peter Mow, of James R. Knowles, says: "Parties to litigation can become disillusioned by the almost incomprehensible procedures and jargon that accompany the processes. There are also inordinate amounts of time and costs involved and once a lawyer is appointed to a case the control of the dispute can pass out of the hands of the parties involved." According to Mr Cohen, the average length of a mediation is three and a half hours, and because a wide array of settlements can be offered there is greater flexibility in the outcome.

"Most lawyers think purely in money terms as a way of solving disputes," Mr Cohen says. "Depending on circumstances, there could be plenty of other ways."

The question now is whether solicitors will back mediation or block it. Once clients latch on, however, its progress may be unstoppable.

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"This method offers a cheap solution for most people. The question now is whether solicitors will support it"

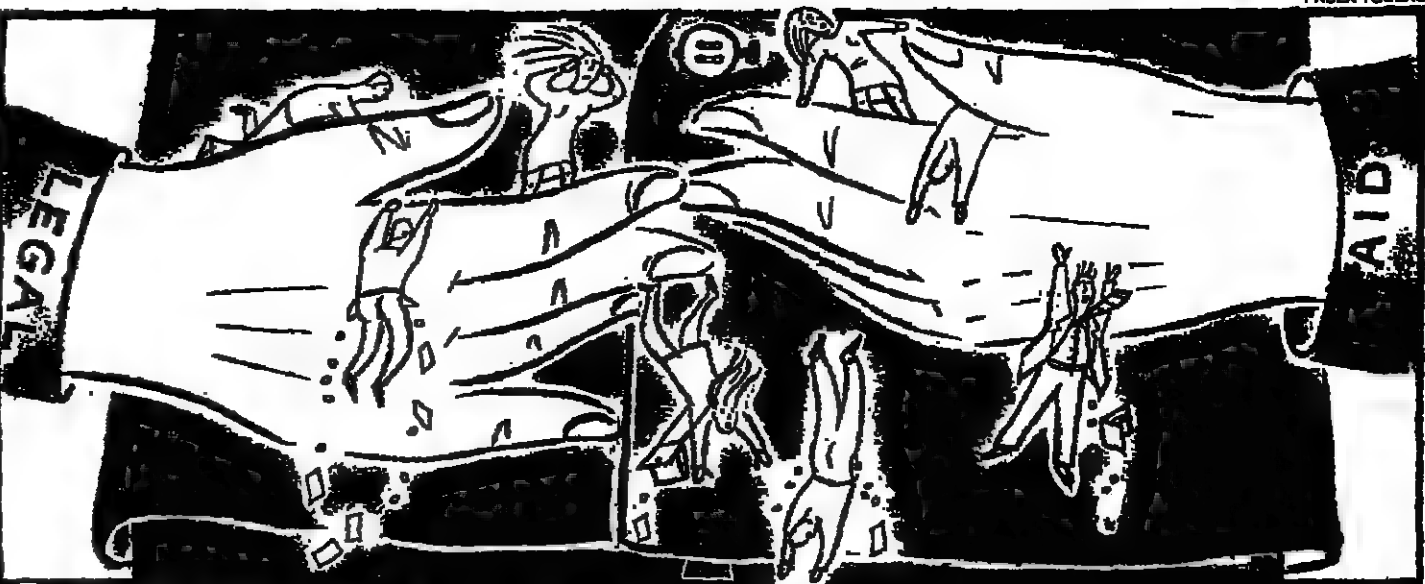
challenge to the adversarial scenario in which the longer the dispute goes on the more entrenched the position becomes."

Successful mediation depends largely on a skilful mediator. The academy's list of approved mediators is drawn from its membership of experienced expert witnesses who are also trained and accredited in mediation skills.

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People of moderate means are losers under new legal aid proposals

PAULA YOUNES



The gamble with justice

Debate over legal aid during the past 18 months has focused on the number of people who can no longer receive help with legal costs. Independent research suggests that more than 15 million people have fallen out of legal aid eligibility. As litigation costs continue to rise, those people are now effectively deprived of access to justice. The proposals in the review by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, on legal aid eligibility, published last week, should be judged primarily on whether they will enhance or impair access to justice.

The review looks at ways of relating eligibility to the costs that an individual may face in pursuing an action. In other words, is the case worth pursuing and, if so, can the individual afford it? However, the legal aid scheme already has a stiff merits test to filter out cases that are not worth pursuing, and those who can afford it already contribute to their legal aid.

The review's main proposal is for a "safety net" scheme. Under this, people could apply for legal aid only after spending as much as they could afford. Even then, there would be no guarantee that legal aid would be granted — so having spent their savings, applicants

could find themselves unable to pursue their case further. They could also be liable for their opponent's costs.

What is not clear is at whom this scheme is aimed. If it is those who already contribute towards the cost of their legal aid — about 20 per cent — it would seriously undermine access to justice. People qualifying for contributory legal aid are unlikely to be able to afford to gamble on the safety net, so their rights would go by default.

This would mean abandoning the principles on which legal aid was founded. The Rushcliffe Committee, which drew up the legal aid scheme, said legal aid should be available to all those of low and moderate means. Therefore, only the poorest would be able to get legal aid as a right, while the several million people now eligible for contributory legal aid would lose out. The review also looks at

insurance-based systems, such as extending the role of legal expenses insurance or setting up a mutual insurance fund, in which a percentage of winnings would be paid into a fund that would meet the costs of those who lose.

However, people cannot be compelled to take out insurance, nor can insurers be compelled to cover all those who apply. Legal expenses insurance can be useful for those ineligible for legal aid, but few people have it and cover is limited.

A mutual insurance fund would inevitably be limited to a few types of cases, such as personal injury. The main problem with this proposal is that it would attract only cases that have uncertain prospects. People whose cases were certain winners would find other means of funding their case rather than paying a percentage of

their winnings into such a fund. They could not be made to use a mutual insurance fund.

Lord Mackay is understandably concerned at the cost of legal aid, which has risen faster than inflation for several years. Legal aid, however, is only a small part of an expensive system of justice. It is not enough to blame litigants and their lawyers for increasing costs without examining the system in which they have to work. Potential litigants have already been hit by successive cuts in eligibility, most recently this year's freezing of the income limit. They should not be penalised for the inefficiencies of the court system.

Far too many people cannot afford to pursue their legal rights. The safety net, if introduced as a replacement for contributory legal aid, would make matters worse. What is needed is extended eligibility to bring back some of the people who have lost out on legal aid in the past 12 years.

The proposals in Lord Mackay's paper, if applied to them, could go some way to achieving this.

JOHN APPLEBY

The author is the chairman of the Courts and Legal Services Committee.

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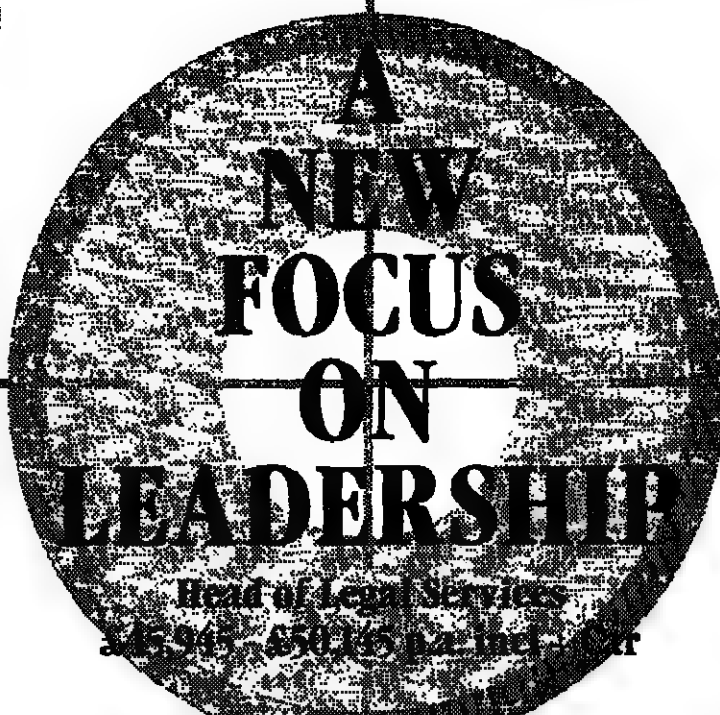
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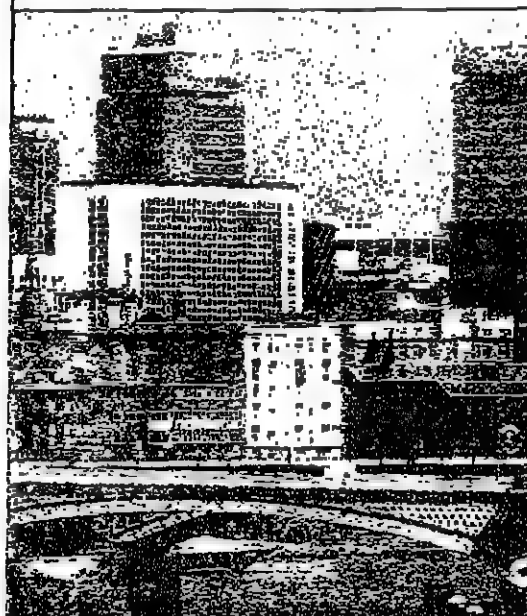
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Irwin on song for title defence

From MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
NEW YORK

TWELVE months ago, Hale Irwin enjoyed the eight most emotional days of his life. He won the United States Open championship, which this week he will be defending at Hazeltine in Chaska, Minnesota, and one week later he won the Buick Classic.

Irwin, who turned 46 last week, had won the US Open in 1974 and 1979, in addition to 23 other titles, including two World Match Play Championships at Wentworth. It seemed, however, that the time had come to draw a line at the bottom of his curriculum vitae as far as his tournament career was concerned.

He had not won the US PGA Tour since 1985. So to become the oldest player to win the US Open seemed only a dream. "In fact, I did dream that I won," Irwin said. "I told my wife, Sally, but only her."

The dream, of course, became reality. Irwin sank a putt of 45 feet on the last green at Medinah, on the outskirts of Chicago, to force a play-off with Mike Donald, which he won the next day. Then Irwin moved on to the Buick Classic in Harrison, Westchester County, in which he finished joint third behind Billy

Andrade in the 1991 event on Sunday, and compiled rounds of 66, 69, 68 and 66 to win again. In eight days, he earned \$400,000. He had not, since turning professional in 1968, earned more than \$276,000 in any single year.

Irwin's year did not end in June. He eventually earned \$838,246 for sixth place in the US money-list. The money, of course, was nice, but it paled in comparison to what he had achieved.

"If you could time something in your career to make a big noise, a big splash, then I guess winning the US Open at 46 was it for me," Irwin said. "It also resurrected the hopes of a lot of 40-plus guys out there who may have given up on themselves."

"I think my win brought people pleasure. You can't imagine how many over-40s have come up to me since the US Open. I think it got them thinking that maybe they could extend themselves. You don't have to roll up the carpet and send the band home."

Irwin had, in 1986, turned to golf course design, formed a company, and found he had less time to practice. "If a course is going to have my name on it then I'm going to see it, be there and make sure it's what I want it to be," Irwin said. "I want it to reflect Hale



Irwin: dream performance
Irwin. And I don't want to leave a bad reputation behind."

Then Irwin decided he had not squeezed all he could from his playing career and that he had no intention of waiting until he was 50 to start winning again on the seniors tour. What annoyed him most was that, when discussing with an American television network the possibility of working for them, one employee suggested he should take on a commenting role because he could not play any more.

That triggered Irwin's renaissance. He went back to the practice range and hit balls until his hands hurt. "The

reason for my success is not awesome talent," he said. In other words, Irwin is aware that he has always needed to work. And he has never been lacking in determination.

In his college days he was the smallest player on the football field, but the toughest. Irwin, who played in the defensive backfield, said: "I hit harder pound-for-pound than anyone. I felt my life was on the line every time I went on the field."

Irwin is still competing hard. He lost a play-off to Kenny Perry for The Memorial tournament last month, and he is on course to regain a place in the United States team for the Ryder Cup as his third-place finish here took his overall earnings this season to \$390,076. He has not played in the Ryder Cup since 1981, and he knows times have changed. "The European team should be favourites," he said.

His immediate intention, however, is to retain the US Open. "I'm going there with a fresh state of mind," he said. "I will use the result here in a positive way, although I need to get back in a practising mode at Hazeltine and find my swing. Maybe subconsciously I've been practising here to be ready for the defence."

Andrade, aged 27, whose success on Sunday was his second in eight days, sharpened his game on the European circuit. The former Walker Cup player won with a final round of 68 for an 11-under-par total of 273.

"I've played several tournaments in Europe and I honestly believe the experience has helped my game," Andrade said. "I played a lot of different courses on which I had to play a lot of different shots."

There will be much pressure on Andrade to play well at Hazeltine, though he would appear capable of handling it. "I'll obviously be going on to the US Open with plenty of momentum. But I've got to think about the fatigue factor. I probably will not play more than one practice round. I'm not making any predictions—the only other time I played in the US Open I shot millions—but I feel in control."

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Captain leads by splendid example as the world champions are beaten in the first Cornhill Test

England revel in Gooch's hour of glory

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (final day of five): England beat West Indies by 115 runs

FOUR months ago a sad and brooding man, his ambitions shattered, spoke desolately of a team which had hit rock bottom. Yesterday, in Leeds, that same man was a national hero as his vilified but rejuvenated team unseated the champions of the world in the first Cornhill Test.

For Graham Gooch this was perhaps the sweetest moment of a rollercoaster career. The gross disappointments of a wayward winter in Australia were consigned to history by a triumph against West Indies in which he was not only director but also stage-manager and central character. His influence off the field, in recreating a sense of direction, has been as precious in this success as his leadership and his runs.

The logic of form said it could not happen. History declined to argue. Not since 1969, when Gooch was playing for London schoolboys in East Africa, have West Indies lost a Test match in England. Not since 1963, when their team included the present hierarchy of Ted Dexter and Micky Stewart, have England dismissed them for fewer than 200 in each innings. The tide had been out a long time but, yesterday, amid high tension and considerable emotion, it turned at last.

At ten minutes past three, with the final West Indian pair together, Gooch took yet another fearful look at the dark clouds scudding across the ground. Could the weather, which had claimed so much of this game, even now deny him? He need not have worried.

Courtney Walsh swung mightily at a ball from Devon Malcolm, the ball spiralled, and Michael Atherton took a diving catch at cover point. His face as he rose was decorated with an ear-to-ear

grin and, within seconds, several thousand people were engulfing him and swarming in front of the Headingley pavilion.

It was a scene new to the present generation of England cricketers. In recent years there has been depressingly little to celebrate. For Phillip DeFreitas, the best bowler of the match, this was a first home win at the eighth time of trying. For the three debutants, Hick, Ramprakash and Watkin, it was how they had always dreamed it would be rather than what they had come to fear.

Now, while the crowd chanted, sang and waved, players sipped champagne and hugged each other in something close to disbelief. That it did not quite stretch to this was down to Gooch. He, more than anyone, has restored the belief to a down-trodden side and, being a resolute realist, he will now make it his priority to ensure that nobody underestimates the West Indies' powers of recovery.

Twice in the past 18 months, Vivian Richards' side has retrieved a series after losing the first game. But for the rain in Jamaica in March, West Indies would have been successfully coming from behind for a third time. They are perfectly capable of doing so again. They are also quite capable of once more batting with the startling proficiency which cost them this game.

No matter the circumstances, West Indians tend to bat in a style which scorers caution and conservatism. Frequently, in the past, it has led them into a plight from which the level-headed Logie has rescued them. But yesterday even he was infected by the frenetic malaise.

Gooch says he had always felt England could dismiss this opposition twice, and not just on a pitch as suspicious as this one, where no batsman ever felt secure. The problem, he knew, was in making suf-

ficient runs against their fast bowlers. This, in his usual way, was a problem he chose to solve himself and so, in the wake of his unbeaten century, he sensed the touring side would not shirk the challenge of making the game's highest total to win.

From the very start it was clear he was right. Haynes and Richardson gathered 32 of the 267 required in the first half-hour of this final day. Both played some extravagant strokes, from one of which, a savage cut, Haynes was dropped by Ramprakash at cover. With the aid of some urgent running between wickets, the stand was worth 61 when Haynes was caught at short leg, pushing at Pringle.

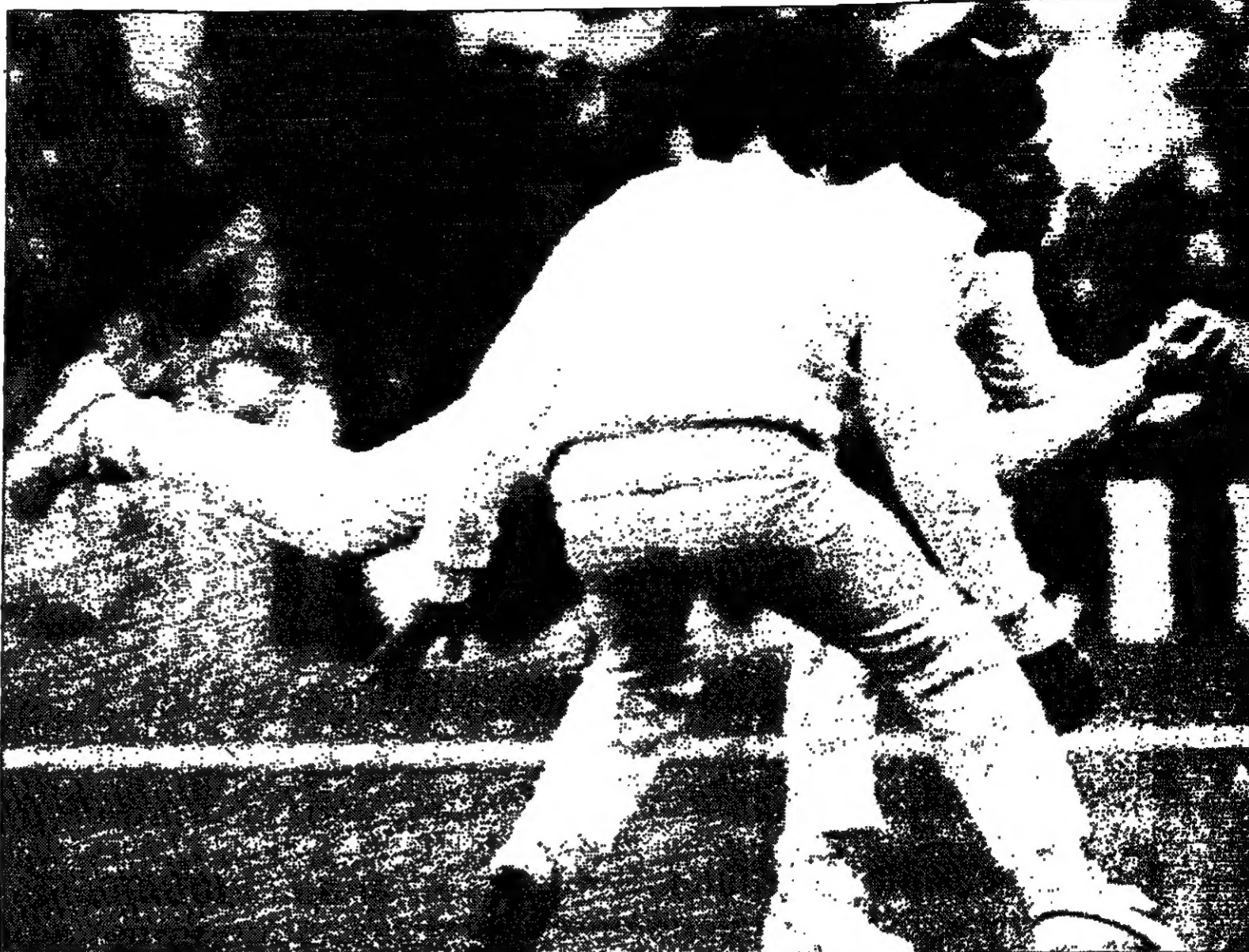
This came early in a marathon spell of 19 overs by Pringle. It brought him only one more wicket, but its skill and control both vindicated his selection for these singular conditions, where English accuracy upstaged Caribbean flair, and reinforced his special place in the folklore of the Headingley crowd. "God Save Our King" was their rousing song before the end, when Gooch said of his long-time friend: "He has been much maligned by the public and the media, so it is great to see him achieving success."

The critical phase was ushered in at 12.20pm when Gooch turned to Watkin. The young Welshman was immediately driven for four and three by Richardson before his third ball had Hooper caught at first slip. In his second over, Richards, aiming to mid-on, was taken by Gooch at mid-off from the leading edge. Now, England knew they could win. In Watkin's third, a fastidious Logie received the ball of the day, bouncing and leaving him to produce a left-handed catch at third slip by Gooch: who else?

Watkin bowls a full, attacking off-stump length and there were times when he seemed either to be taking a wicket or being hit for four. But he is a natural wicket-taker and, in his first game, has dismissed five men with 49 Test centuries between them while, as Gooch pointed out, running "into a howling gale".

There was an anxious hour after lunch before Richardson, his fire spent, fell to a weary shot. The tail barely offered. The England captain, excitement carefully in check, was delighted but far from delirious. Is it too early to write off the West Indies? "Blimey, yeah, there are four matches to go..."

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Moment of victory: Atherton, partly obscured by Ramprakash, goes full length to dismiss Walsh and secure England's win at Headingley

Much to savour and anticipate

JOHN WOODCOCK

WHEN a match so threatened by the weather can provide such entertainment, such cut and thrust, as this first Test, it augurs well for the rest of the series. It is good to be able to say, too, that the spirit in which the game was played provided a merciful contrast to that when West Indies lost their previous Test against Australia in Antigua five weeks ago. Here at Headingley no quarter was given but no trust betrayed.

Whether viewed from an English standpoint or dispassionately, the result was just the one with which to start the series. The Headingley pitch was always likely to give England their best chance of bowling West Indies out twice and they did it, in a total of only 110.5

overs, with an attack which could not be expected, with any confidence, to win the championship if they all belonged to the same country. For Richards to achieve his ambition and end his career on a winning note, West Indies are going now to have to pull out all the stops: it should be fun to watch.

All being well, the sun will come out soon and stay out, and allow, at Lord's and elsewhere, a more varied form of the game. Ideally, the ball moved about too much for the faster bowlers at Headingley. But when it does so, as so often at Melbourne as well, it usually makes for absorbing watching. This was indeed a

memorable Test match befitting very much to the England captain, yet one to which all his players made a contribution.

England's last victory over West Indies in this country, 22 years ago, bore strong similarities. That, too, was a typical, low-scoring Headingley game. Where it differed from this latest one was in the part played by the spinners of the two sides — Ray Illingworth and Derek Underwood for England, and Lance Gibbs and, when he was not bowling fast, Gary Sobers for West Indies. Between them they shared the best part of 100 overs. Needing 303 to win, the highest score of the match, West Indies got to 219 for four before losing by 30 runs. That match turned when

Barry Knight bowled the great Sobers for nought. Now, again, an England captain had special reason when all was over, to take wine with an Essex all-rounder. The partnership of 98 between Gooch and Derek Pringle in England's second innings was crucial, as was Pringle's accuracy with the ball yesterday.

One way of knowing that this particular West Indian side may be wavering is to see them batting like millionaires, particularly the captain. They are, if the truth be told, as volatile as they ever were. They are also, more often than not, good enough to get away with it. Either their bowlers come to the rescue or, having played fast and loose in their first innings, they

knuckle down in the second. Yesterday, without Gordon Greenidge to take charge of one end, there was no real stability there once Pringle had accounted for Haynes.

To win as England did with Atherton, Hick and Lamb, their Nos. 2, 3 and 4, making only 31 runs in six visits to the crease was, in a sense, another gratifying aspect of the match.

Atherton took a spectacular catch to finish things off. Lamb held four out of five at first slip, and all three, not least Hick, will be the better for knowing that if they fail with the bat, it is not the end of the world. Hick has been made to feel at home in a cheerful side. Like a lot of us he will be thinking that there is much to look forward to in the coming weeks.

Richards rallies team

VIVIAN Richards, the West Indies captain, warned England to "be wary" after their defeat.

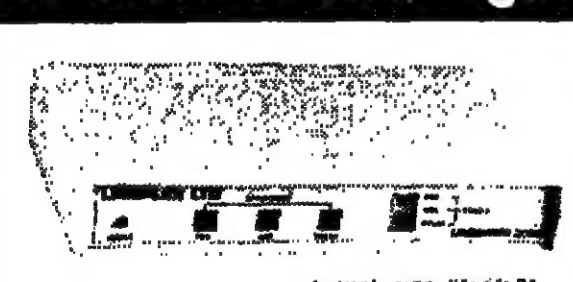
After regrouping his troops in a dressing-room meeting, Richards said: "It hasn't been a post mortem, it's more a question of keeping everyone's spirits high... I'm sure we have the resilience to come back again."

"We've got to look at ways of knocking England down —

and I don't mean with bouncers. England played the better cricket in this match, but we have to show the character to fight back. And knowing what has happened in the past, I think England should be wary."

"England have looked a rejuvenated side, but I will only be totally convinced if we are still losing after five Tests... It's very important to us and the West Indian people that we remain strong."

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COMPLETE SCOREBOARD FROM HEADINGLEY

West Indies won toss									
ENGLAND: First Innings									
G A Gooch c Dujon b Marshall	34	66	46	61	48				
M A Atherton b Patterson	2	—	—	22	16				
G A Hick c Dujon b Walsh	6	—	1	51	31				
A J Lamb c Hooper b Marshall	11	—	1	55	37				
M R Ramprakash c Hooper b Marshall	27	—	4	142	103				
R A Smith run out (Andrews/Dujon)	54	—	7	135	98				
P V Simmons c Lamb b DeFreitas	5	—	1	45	29				
D R Pringle c Logie b Patterson	16	—	—	111	73				
P A J DeFreitas c Simmons b Ambrose	15	—	2	43	34				
S L Watkin b Ambrose	2	—	—	14	9				
D E Malcolm not out	5	—	1	41	31				
Extras (lb 5, w 2, nb 14)	21								
Total (79.2 overs, 386 mins)	198								
WEST INDIES: First Innings									
P V Simmons c Ramprakash b DeFreitas	38	66	46	61	48				
D L Haynes c Russell b Watkin	7	—	1	55	38				
R B Richardson run out (Gooch/Russell)	29	—	2	97	62				
C L Hooper run out (Ramprakash)	0	—	—	8	5				
Hil stumps at an angle running in from cover									
'I V A Richards c Lamb b Pringle	73	2	7	129	98				
S L Watkin c Lamb b DeFreitas	6	—	1	25	15				
Back-foot shot edged to first slip									
TP J L Dujon c Ramprakash b Watkin	6	—	1	14	13				
Half-cut shot to extra cover									
M D Marshall c Hick b Pringle	0	—	—	8	5				
Low catch to second slip									
C L Ambrose c Hick b DeFreitas	0	—	—	4	3				
Shin-high catch at second slip									
G A Walsh c Gooch b DeFreitas	3	—	—	23	16				
Shut to extra cover									
B P Patterson not out	5	—	1	18	14				
Extras (lb 1, nb 5)	6								
Total (54.1 overs, 236 mins)	178								
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36 (Simmons 27 not out), 2-64 (Richardson 7), 3-68 (Richardson 10), 4-102 (Richards 29), 5-130 (Richards 53), 6-136 (Richards 64), 7-180 (Richards 68), 8-185 (Richards 73), 9-187 (Watkin 2)									
BOWLING: Ambrose 26-8-48-2 (nb 8) (12-10-0, 12-3-20, 8-3-13); Patterson 26-2-6-7 (nb 5) (8-3-15, 7-1-25, 12-2-3-2); Walsh 14-7-31-1 (w 1, nb 3) (8-1-13-1, 2-1-2-0, Marshall 13-4-6-3 (nb 4) (8-1-4-2, 4-3-1)									
INTERMEDIATE SCORES: First day: 50 (57 min, 19.2 overs); 100 (152 min, 32.5 overs); 150 (255 min, 55.3 overs); Lunch: 64 (26 overs); Tea: 128-5 (47.5 overs); Close: 174-7 (64 overs); Second day: Innings ended at 12.10.									
Second Innings									
G A Gooch not out	154	—	18	482	331				
M A Atherton c Dujon b Ambrose	6	—	—	36	33				
G A Hick b Ambrose	6	—	1	25	20				
A J Lamb b Hooper b Ambrose	0	—	—	1	1				
Surprised by extra bounce									
M R Ramprakash c Dujon b Ambrose	27	—	2	142	109				
Edge taken by wicketkeeper on his knees									
R A Smith lbw b Ambrose	0	—	—	1	1				
Playing back to ball that kept low									
R C Russell c Dujon b Ambrose	4	—	1	14	12				
Fast edge to wicketkeeper									
D R Pringle c Dujon b Marshall	27	—	2	144	94				
Outswinger edged to wicketkeeper									
P A J DeFreitas lbw b Walsh	3	—	—	41	27				
Hitting across the line									
S L Watkin c Hooper b Marshall	0	—	—	8	5				
Edged to second slip									
D E Malcolm b Marshall	4	—	1	25	11				
Hit round straight ball									
Extras (lb 4, nb 9, w 7)	21								
Total (106 overs, 452 min)	252								
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22 (Gooch 13 not out), 2-38 (Gooch 23), 3-38 (Gooch 23), 4-118 (Gooch 70), 5-116 (Gooch 70), 6-124 (Gooch 74), 7-222 (Gooch 135), 8-238 (Gooch 144), 9-238 (Gooch 144)									
BOWLING: Ambrose 26-8-48-2 (nb 8) (10-3-0, 5-1-13-0, 6-1-13-3, 7-1-18-0); Patterson 15-1-50-0 (nb 5) (8-0-20-0, 2-0-10-0, 1-0-2-0, 6-1-1-0); Marshall 25-4-89-3 (11-4-19-0, 14-0-29-3); Walsh 31-5-51-1 (10-4-13-0, 7-0-13-0, 13-1-25-1); Hooper 4-1-1-0 (one spell); Richards 4-1-5-0 (one spell)									
INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Third day: 50 (52 min, 21.4 overs); 100 (190 min, 44.4 overs); Lunch: 47-3 (20 overs); Tea: 114-3 (52 overs); Close: 143-6 (66 overs); Fourth day: 150 (250 min, 83.1 overs); 200 (345 min, 84.2 overs); 250 (450 min, 105.4 overs); Innings ended at 18.00; Lunch: 153-4 (81 overs); Tea: 220-7 (94.2 overs); Gooch's INNINGS: 50 (182 min, 112 balls); 100 (329 min, 240 balls); 150 (440 min, 325 balls)									
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Haynes 0), 2-61 (Richardson 40), 3-77 (Richardson 49), 4-85 (Richardson 50), 5-88 (Richardson 54), 6-136 (Dujon 31), 7-137 (Dujon 31), 8-139 (Ambrose 0), 9-162 (Walsh 9)									
BOWLING: DeFreitas 21-4-59-4 (nb 1) (8-2-23-1, 5-2-8-0, 8-0-28-3); Malcolm 6-4-0-28-1 (nb 3) (1-0-1-0, 4-0-22-0, 1-4-0-3-1); Pringle 22-6-36-2 (nb 7) (3-1-4-0, 18-5-34-2); Watkin 7-0-35-3 (one spell)									
INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Fourth day: Close: 11-1 (8 overs); Final day: 50 (70 min, 15.5 overs); 100 (152 min, 35.1 overs); 150 (220 min, 51.2 overs); Lunch: 89-5 (34 overs); Innings ended at 15.10.									
Umpires: H D Bird and D R Shepherd. Man of the match: G A Gooch (adjudicator: F S Truman).									
TESTS TO COME: Lord's (June 20 to 22), Trent Bridge (July 4 to 6), Edgbaston (July 25 to 28); The Oval (August 5 to 12).									

England succeed after 22 years

ENGLAND'S 115-run victory yesterday ended a sequence of 23 home Test matches against West Indies without a win. It also broke a run of nine defeats in the last 10 home matches against the same opponents. England's last home success was in 1969, also at Headingley, by 30 runs under the captaincy of Ray Illingworth. England won that series 2-0.

The following table shows the results in all series between the two countries since 1969:

	M	Eng	WI	D
1969	1	0	0	1
1973	1	0	0	1
1974	1	0	0	1
1976	1	0	0	1
1980	1	0	0	1
1981	1	0	0	1
1984	1	0	0	1
1985-8	4	0	0	4
1988	1	0	0	1
1989-90	4	0	1	3



Trueman: 1963 triumph

twice in a Test at Headingley since Australia in 1972.

West Indies have not made under 200 twice in a Test since they were spun out by the leg-break bowler, Narendra Hirwani, in Madras in 1987-8 for 184 and 160.

Second in a row

WEST INDIES have not lost the opening match of a five-match overseas series since 1951-2 in Australia. They lost that series 4-1.

West Indies have lost a match in each of their last three series — against England,